

# BELIEVING IS NOT ENOUGH

You Must Do  
God's Will



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You Must Do God's Will

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to all Kingdom dwellers. May you walk daily in God's will.



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*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:  
the devils also believe, and tremble.*

*<sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without  
works is dead?*

*<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when  
he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

*<sup>22</sup> Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by  
works was faith made perfect?*

*<sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham  
believed God, and it was imputed unto him for  
righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

*<sup>24</sup> Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and  
not by faith only.*

*<sup>25</sup> Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

*<sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

*(James 2:19-26. KJV)*

# Introduction

The major message of this book is; it is not okay to believe in God and not participate in the Ministries of the Church. You will be judged by how you treat others. As Kingdom dwellers God's will must take first place in our lives.

My hope is that this book will point you to God and aid you in taking any corrective action you need to take in making Him the focus of your life.

If you want to know more about Jesus; join me in my Facebook group. Come introduce yourself at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/breathofJesus>



# Acknowledgement

I must indicate how grateful I am to my family for allowing me the time to write this book. Without their support it would still be an idea.



# Chapter 1

## So You Believe

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

*(John 3:36. KJV)*

All Christians have one thing in common: they all believe that Jesus died to save them. As a Christian you believe that Jesus left His throne in glory to come to earth to live as a human being so that your sins will be forgiven. He died on a cross on Calvary's Hill to pay the price for our

sins so that we can live with Him eternally. He loves us so much He was willing to die for us.

Many people through the ages have questioned Christians' beliefs. But the evidence is overwhelming that Jesus existed and was the son of God. There are over 300 hundred prophecies that have been fulfilled by Jesus' life, death and resurrection. There is no doubt that Jesus is who He says He is. He is the son of God who died for our sins.

God made us in His image by shaping the dust of the earth and breathing life into the image formed.

*“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every*



*creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:26-27. KJV)*

God’s breath brought us to life and so we can only feel and be complete when we have surrendered our lives to His care. You will always be longing for something more in your soul until you meet the Saviour and submit to Him.

You were created by God for His pleasure. If you are not pleasing Him you are going to be miserable. So to have peace of mind and to be your best self you will need to have God as the King of your life.

Information about Jesus Christ and what we need to do to become children of God are found in the Bible. John

3:16 (KJV) tells us that *“God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* All you need to do to become a follower of Christ is to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died to save you from your sins. You need no special instructions, no special rituals, no special place and no special time to do so. You can do so anywhere, at any time with or without another person present. You can use whatever words you are comfortable with. You just need to be sincere in your heart. God Who knows your heart forgives your sins and you become one of His children.

When you acknowledge that Jesus is indeed the son of God and that your sins are forgiven by His act of dying

on the cross you are filled with such blessed joy and peace that you want to let others be aware of how you are feeling and what is the reason for this joy and peace. You cannot put a lid on it or you will explode. You feel compelled to share it. Some of us are repelled by others or are treated with indifference at this stage and so we withdraw into our shells with this “Good News” of Salvation. We lose the zeal to tell others of His love, especially those who most need to hear it; those who have not surrendered their lives to God’s guidance.

It is vital that believers share their faith. It is easier when you first believe and is still experiencing the “gloss” of new love. You should not allow others unbelief or rebuff to stop you from sharing what God has done for you and what He wants to do for all persons. Jesus instructed His

disciples, just before He left earth, to go and make disciples of all people. These instructions are just as relevant to us His disciples in these times, or in any age, as it was for those disciples present with Him at His ascension. All Christians are expected to tell others of the love of Christ and how He demonstrated this love to humankind.

Jesus Christ said that we should go therefore we need to get out of the pews and seek out persons who do not believe to tell them about His love. This may be done by joining clubs or other groups, telling persons at your workplace, creating clubs at your church, having a Jesus party, telling your friends or other innovative ways of letting people know how to access this blessed joy and peace that can only come from knowing Jesus Christ.

Use your Facebook, twitter and other social media accounts to post Scripture and other quotes that will feature God's love and care.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Do you believe that Jesus died to save you? Why?
2. If you are a believer, what is next for you? How can you better serve your Lord?
3. What do you need to change in your life to ensure that you will be a joint heir with Jesus in the resurrection?

## Chapter 2

### All To Jesus

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6. KJV)*

Believing in Jesus is the first step on a spiritual journey with God our Father. It is an exciting journey if we are willing to partner with Him. For some of us it is a journey cruising on autopilot. No effort on our part. We are just sitting, existing, no excitement and no adventure.

Others of us are rebellious and want to do things our way. We:

- Ignore God until we want something
- Are disobedient
- Are exposed to danger
- Get into trouble
- Keep bad company
- Will not listen to God

Like most earthly fathers with rebellious children, God wants to take us under His wings and guide us on the right path but we refuse to listen.

If your children behaved in the manner I just described, how would you feel? Disappointed? Sad? Angry?

Embarrassed? I am sure it would not be a good feeling. Yet we do the same to our Heavenly Father; daily, hourly, minutely. We keep doing the same thing over and over again expecting Him to feel differently. We want to have victorious Christian lives, gifted by our Heavenly Father, Yet we live rebellious lives in our own strength, guided by our own will.

There is danger lurking all around us. We are living in a war zone and are oblivious to it because we are too busy doing our own thing. We see evidence of this war in our homes. We fuss with our spouses and children. Children are disobedient, insolent, wayward, stubborn and lazy. Members of our families suffer from many illnesses, some acute and some chronic. Some easily cured some with no cure by modern medicine.



We see evidence of this war in our communities and nations. People are self-centred. Everything revolves around them. Church must start at a time convenient to them. The elements of the Worship Service must reflect their desires. They strive to be successful so they can accumulate wealth for their wants. People are short tempered. They get angry for any and everything. They are angry at their neighbour, the politicians, their friends, their enemies, the media, etcetera, etcetera. We live in an angry world. Persons want to have nothing to do with God. They are too wise to believe in a God who they cannot see or touch. Dishonesty abounds in all walks of life; in rich humans and poor humans, politicians and the masses, the churchd and the unchurchd, male and females, and children and adults.

Evidence of this war is also seen in ourselves. We are too busy to nurture our relationships with each other and with God. When was the last time you had a girls' or boys' night out? Have you spent at least half an hour each day having a real conversation with God? Not a one-way prayer session but one where you talk to God and listen for His response and vice versa. Our priorities are skewed away from God. A number of activities in our lives have first call on our time and resources. God is placed on the back-burner playing second best (or even further down the line) to our career, church activities that honour us and not God, children's school and extracurricular activities, and all those things we do that contribute to our success but do not lift God up for others to see. We have selfish tendencies doing only

those things that feel right for us and that do not require us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone. We are prideful. We must drive the latest SUV. Our house must be at a specified minimum standard in a neighbourhood of a certain class. Our dining must be upscale. The Joneses must have nothing over us even if it means being in debt. Our possessions and skills are made into gods. They are neither used to glorify God nor shared with others.

Although this war may manifest itself physically, it is spiritual in nature. This war is between the forces of good and evil. God and the heavenly hosts are in a battle for our souls, against the devil and his evil army. Paul in Ephesians 6:12 (KJV) said: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against*

*powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

When you see the things described earlier happening, you know the battle is raging. Jesus indicated that it is the nature of Satan to be disruptive: “*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*”.

(John 10:10. KJV)

Satan fights smart. He fights dirty where he needs to and clean and subtle where he needs to. He has studied each of us and knows which tactics to use to get each of us on his side, even if it is for a brief moment. He knows your likes and dislikes and tailors his temptations to your likes and dislikes. He may use your likes to get you to do things that you should not but that are enjoyable e.g.

sexual sins, revelry and excessive use of alcohol. Likewise he may use your dislikes to get you vexed and miserable. He is also pitting us against each other.

You too must be smart. Jesus said this to His disciples:

*“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves”* (Matthew 10:16. KJV). What can you do? Our

first line of defence is usually to respond to persons according to how they approach us. So we fuss with our spouses, children and the short-tempered people. We try to get even with dishonest people. We ignore the issue or call upon God in a nonchalant manner. In other words we respond with our intellect or emotions, i.e. in our own strength. Our first line of defence becomes a breach in the defence because the battle is not ours. The

Holy Spirit led Jahaziel, a Levite in the time of King Jehoshaphat, to declare “*Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.*” (2 Chronicles 20:15b. KJV) If we fight in our own strength we will fail. Because the battle is not physical we cannot use physical weapons to fight. We need spiritual weapons. As children of God we can call upon God to provide the weapons we need to fight this war.

We live in an era where we have been trained to use our intellect and ignore the spiritual. We do so to our own peril. How then do we fight the evil that seem to be overtaking the world, the nation, our communities and our homes?

All Christians are called to fight in God’s army. None is

exempted. He requires us to be always ready for duty. You must take a stand in this war. You are either on God's side or the devil's. There is no middle ground or sitting on the fence. If you choose not to fight you are actually fighting on the devil's side. You must make a choice. Be wise, if you choose to fight but are still doing unrighteous acts in secret, you are on the devil's side.

You may feel that you are not ready for service in God's army but all God requires of you is a willing heart. He will not give you an assignment that you cannot do. God will not leave you to fight on your own. As a matter of fact all you are required to do is surrender to Him and He will fight your battles for you. So do not say you need to know the Bible better or you just became a Christian. God is not looking for perfection. Just show up.

Jesus left us the Great Commission on His way back home to Heaven.

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.<sup>19</sup> Go therefore<sup>[e]</sup> and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20. NKJV)*

As His disciples we are required to make disciples of others. To make disciples we must **GO**. Sitting in Church once per week and focusing on earning a living for the rest of the week does not constitute **going**. We must go to where the people are who needs to hear God’s



encouraging Words. Some of these persons are in our workplaces, families, groups we are a part of and places we visit but we never take the time to talk to them about Christ or to invite them to church.

God wants to gather all His children under His wings. It is not His will that any of us should perish. “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” (2 Peter 3:9. KJV) He rejoices every time one of His children who were astray returns to His care.

The angels in Heaven also rejoice with Him. “*Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*”

(Luke 15:10. KJV)

If we love Him and are willing to do His will we must go to where sinners are and love them back to God's Kingdom.

You cannot rely on your will to take up arms and go searching for sinners or to recognize those individuals who need to hear a word from God. If you are relying on willpower you will never do so. You have got to surrender your will to God and allow His Holy Spirit to lead you to persons who are hurting, angry, have given up hope, are looking for their purpose and need God's wondrous, compassionate love.

We must always be ready to go as God requires. He will give you all you need to introduce others to Him. You need to remember that your only job is to introduce them to Jesus. He will do all the work to save them. He

will even give you the words to do the introduction.

It is very important that we do God's will. Jesus has told us that His disciples should bear fruit. As Jesus' disciple you will be pruned in order to bear fruit. "*Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth, it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*" (John 15:2. KJV) So life will not always be a bed of rose petals. We are going to find thorns on the stem with the flower but the smell and the sight of the rose will make it all worthwhile. When we are being pruned it is a painful feeling. We look ugly but in order to bear luscious, nutritious fruit, we must go through the pruning process. Jesus has indicated that, when we do His will, we can ask anything of the Father in His Name and it will be done.

*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (John 15:16. KJV)*

Discipleship is not a relaxed comfortable venture. Instead it is getting out of your comfort zone for an adventure with your Creator. It is sometimes uncomfortable, painful, sad, upsetting and dangerous but always peaceful, joy-filled, loving, calm and compassionate.

Our mission is clear we must make disciples of others. We must focus on that mission and not allow ourselves to be distracted. Remember we are at war and so we must be strategic in getting the mission accomplished

without being distracted, sent in a different direction, turned back or destroyed by the enemy.

Once you turn up ready for service willing to fight God will give you all you need to accomplish the mission.

Jesus said: *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*

(John 10:10. KJV) It is His will that you be joy-filled and healthy in all areas of your life. To do so you will need to surrender **ALL** aspects of your life to God:

- Financial
- Children
- Marriage
- Leisure activities
- Spouse

- Career
  
- Health
  - Emotional
  
  - Mental
  
  - Spiritual
  
  - Physical
  
- Your will

Having surrendered all these things, do not help yourself to them on the way out or as you get up from your knees. Many of us surrender situations to God but are unwilling or unable to leave them with Him. If we are going to win this battle we have to learn to completely surrender to Jesus. If we inadvertently reload our backs with these cares it is okay to re-surrender until we finally get that it is best left in Jesus' care. Do so minutely or moment

by moment as needed. Just don't give up.

What does surrendering look or feel like? First of all it is not sitting or lying down inactively waiting for the solution to all our problems to come running to us. It is proactively asking God to show you the way, listening for His response and obeying His instructions. It is trusting that God knows what is best for us and that He will engineer pathways to lead us to the abundant life that Jesus promised us. He can see into the future and knows exactly what you need right now to succeed then. If you allow Him to, He will ensure that you have a clear pathway to achieving your dreams. No matter who or what tries to steal your dreams or tries to side-track you, they will not succeed because God is fighting your battles. Because God is fighting your battles there is no

reason to panic, worry, stress out or work ourselves to a frazzle trying to ensure that every factor of our lives are working well.

Jesus is our Rock and when we surrender all to Him we gain several benefits. Stress does not bother us because we know that our God is managing the stressors that present themselves in our lives. Not being bothered by stress results in:

- Calm nerves
- Normal blood pressure and heart beat
- Our immune system working as it should and so we have few illnesses if any. When we do get sick the body is able to heal itself quickly
- Joy and peace
- More focused on enjoying God, our families and



friends

- Less quarrelsome and so enjoy more peaceful interactions with others
- An all-round better disposition and so lives a more satisfying life
- Experiencing a greater degree of gratitude in our daily interactions

If we are still fighting with ourselves or constantly questioning the wisdom of God we need to reflect on how well we are doing in surrendering various aspects of our lives to God. Have we surrendered our finances but continue to fight our way through our marriage? Or have we surrendered our health but refuse to allow God near our career? To experience rest in the arms of God we must give Him everything; even the mundane everyday

chores. Remember surrender is an active verb not a passive one. In other words we **DO** surrender.

Remember God is timeless. He does not work by our agenda. Be patient, sometimes He has to prepare us to receive the blessing He has awaiting us. So do not fight against the trials and temptations that come your way after you have surrendered to God. Instead go through them confident that the Holy Spirit is walking with you and all will be well in the end. “*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.*” (Psalm 23:4. KJV)

God is waiting patiently and willingly for you to allow Him to take care of you. When He takes care of you He addresses all your cares, everything that affects you now

or in the future. He sees the big picture while you can only see a small portion equivalent to a speck. Allow Him to remove the cobwebs and the dust from the picture of your life so that you can move freely and clearly to a prosperous life.

### Reflection Questions

1. Have you surrendered all aspects of your life to God? Why?
2. If you have not, what are you afraid of?
3. If you have, how easy is it to stay in a state of surrender?
4. What aspects of surrendering do you need to work

on?

# Chapter 3

## Communion With God

*And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day (Genesis 3:8a. KJV)*

We were made by God to connect with God. If you are not connected to God you will feel that there is a missing link. Once you have connected to Him you will feel whole.

Constant communication with God is important for:

- **Glorifying or worshipping God.** We are expected to give God glory for all He has done and continues to do for us. In giving God glory or worshipping Him we give Him pleasure and we receive pleasure through our connection with Him.
- **Building relationships with God and others.** As we talk with God we cement our relationship with Him. When we spend time with God we learn more about Him. We learn more about His nature, what His plans are for us and what He expects of us.
- **Refuelling.** Spending time with god provides a time of refuelling for us. The cares of this world can overwhelm us and leave us and leave us burnt

out if we do not find time to sit at Jesus' feet. Sitting at Jesus' feet enables us to be refreshed from the connection with Him. We get power to face the stressors, trials, temptations and the daily grind.

- **Health.** God made our bodies and He knows exactly what we need to live a healthy life. To stay well we need to submit all elements of wellness to Him; spiritual, physical, emotional, mental and social. If we are unwell in any one of these elements all will be affected. Think of the last time you had a headache (physical). Did you feel like having company (social)? Were you happy (emotional)? Could you focus on solving a problem (mental)? Did you feel like praising God

(spiritual)? Giving God access to our wellness programme; to steer it in the right direction, to correct breaches, to heal wounds and just to give overall insight; will result in us living the abundant life Christ came to give us. Holistic health can only come from God. Human medical experts can only fix some aspects of health but to be truly healthy we need to be in constant contact with Doctor God. He knows all and can fix all our health problems.

- **Guidance.** We are lost without God. He knows the plans He has for us. *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11. NIV)



His plans are always better than ours. Ours constantly lead us into trouble but God from His vantage point ensures that all variables are taken into consideration with His plans. He mitigates all our limitations and leverages our strengths. Seeking God's guidance each day leads us to paths of righteousness, achievement of our goals and to fulfilment of dreams that are bigger than we could ever imagine with our finite brains.

*“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”*

*(Ephesians 3:20. KJV)*

- **Problem solving.** God knows all and He has the solution to all our problems no matter how huge

they are. Jesus said: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28. KJV) He also said:

*Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (Matthew 6:31-32. KJV)*

Why do we then think it is necessary to burden ourselves with problems and worries? Are we better problem solvers than God? I don't think so.

When we worry or load ourselves with our burdens we are rejecting God. We are saying:

“we have no faith God in Your providence or

solution to my problem. Let me seek my own way out” (although your worrying is a big indication that your way is not working). But when you take your problem to God and talk with Him about it, He will answer. The answer may not be immediate but He will answer in His own time with a better solution than you could think of.

- **Knowing God’s Will.** As God’s children it is important for us to know His will. We do not want to bring dishonour to the family name by doing something that is not in keeping with His will. Communing with Him allows us to learn His thoughts, the way He wants things done, His expectations of His children, His idiosyncrasies and what His wishes are. Communion with Him

will also indicate how we can ensure we are keeping in His will. Living in His will comes with many benefits; peace of mind, joy, manoeuvring through stress without overwhelm and having our problems solved.

Now that you know the benefits of communicating with God, how do we do so? Communion or Communicating with God is spending time with Him, sending and receiving messages from Him. It is a two-way system. We talk to each other and listen for or observe a response. Talking to a person without waiting for a response would be considered disrespectful in any culture. Likewise when we do that to God we are being disrespectful. Yet we do it on many occasions when we pray.

Communion with God may take a number of formats:

- **Sermons.** God speaks to us through His messengers.

The highlight of our Worship Service should be the Word we get from God through the sermon or message. Once you are present there is something in that sermon that is directed at you. Sometimes it is so clear that you wonder if the Preacher was hiding out in your bedroom. God gathers us up to the spot He wants us to be and gives us the Word that is appropriate to our present or future situation. He expects us to respond to His Sermon by doing whatever we were asked to do by the Sermon.

- **Quiet time.** Our daily quiet time is a good time to communicate with God, especially for refuelling

and guidance. It is a time when we read our Bibles and become quiet before God, listening for Him to speak in His still small voice in our minds, telling us how we can apply what we just read to our daily lives. We can have a discussion with God about what we read and what He expects. Many people write these conversations in a journal and refer to them regularly. Quiet times may also be a time of reflection on our life or a time of seeking guidance or for problem solving. Daily quiet times strengthen our relationship with God and help us to better know His voice.

- **Bible Study.** The Bible is the Word of God. It is God speaking to us through His prophets and the stories of His chosen people. When we read the Bible we

should do so to know God's will, to know more about His nature and to hear what He is saying to you at this point in time. The best way to truly know God is to read His Word. We should do so to recognize His voice through his written Word. In other words His Words come alive in our hearts and we cannot be fooled by the false voices anymore. The false voices will never fully line up with Scripture. There will always be something that is slightly out even though most of it is true. So studying the Bible makes crystal clear the contrast between good and evil.

- **Prayer.** We pray prayers of invocation, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, adoration, intercession, and dedication. Prayer is a conversation with God

and so should really include times of quietude when we wait for a response from God. It may be His still small voice or a quickening of the heart. Prayers require no special words. Just speak from the heart allowing the Holy Spirit to give guidance as to what to pray for and what words to use. Sometimes a cry out to God is all we can muster. The important thing is we should be sincere and not be showboating.

*But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>s</sup> Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. (Matthew 6:7-8. KJV)*



- **Devotion.** Spending time each day to sing praises to God, read the Bible and pray, allows us to connect with God in a number of different ways. Several of our senses become involved and so the experience is better etched on our hearts, minds and souls. While our quiet times are personal, intimate time spent with God, our devotions may be personal or done with others (family, friends, church). Devotions, especially family devotions, strengthen the bonds between the participants, as it strengthens their bonds with God. Persons in the group may become praying partners, praying for each other; as well as accountability partners, keeping each other on the pathway to righteousness. “*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man*

*sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*

(Proverbs 27:17. KJV)

- **Worship Services.** As followers of Christ we should congregate together regularly, at least once weekly to fellowship with God and each other. The various elements of a worship service allow us to commune with God at various levels and with all our senses. God speaks to us and we speak to Him through the music, songs, readings, sermon, prayers, etc. Worship services are a three-way connection point with God and us. We connect with God. He connects with us and we connect with each other.
- **Other people.** God sometimes speak to us through others. These people may be strangers, acquaintances or persons that are close to us. We

may have been seeking an answer to a question, the solution to a problem or guidance. That person gives you the answer, solution or step you should take. God is aware of your desires and will use whatever means necessary and available to communicate His will for you. All He requires of you is obedience to His Word.

God wants you to talk to Him about everything that is in your life and all that affects your life. He wants to hear of your anger, sadness, joy, happiness, anxiety, stress, cares, problems, family, friends, enemies, job, garment, everything. Nothing is too small, big, boring or matter of fact to share with God. He wants to be an integral part of your life. So share with Him every moment of your day. Talk to Him while you are cutting the vegetables,

washing the dishes, driving to work, exercising, relaxing, surfing the internet, etc., etc. You do not have to be in a special place to talk to God. Neither do you need to place your body in a special position. You can stand, kneel, lie on your back or face down, it matters not your position. Your eyes can be opened or unopened. Come to Him with a sincere heart and you are good to go. Involve Him in your life. Remember His Holy spirit lives within you and so he is always with you. Involving Him in your life will keep you out of trouble and you will be less likely to take Him to places He would not choose to go on His own.

A go-between or priest is not needed to communicate with God. *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to*

*help in time of need.*” (Hebrew 4:16. KJV) When Jesus died on the cross the veil of the Temple was torn signifying that everybody could go to the altar themselves. You can talk to God whether or not you are a Christian. He makes His rain fall on the just and the unjust. He answers the prayers of Christians and non-Christians but if you are not a Christian you will not inherit eternal life.

Our merciful, gracious God seeks and longs for a relationship with you where He can gather you under His wings and care for you. Give Him a chance to do so by communing with Him constantly.

## Reflection Questions

1. How often do you talk with God?
2. What do you talk about?
3. How do you benefit from these conversations?
4. How can you make better use of this time that you spend together?

# Chapter 4

## Love In Action

*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40. KJV)*

Jesus Himself said the number one commandment was to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. What then does loving God mean? It

means that we love God with our whole being. With everything that makes us human; heart (emotional, passion), mind (cognitive, mental), soul (spiritual, prayer), and body (physical, energy). All that we feel, think, say and do should reflect our love for God. Jesus said **ALL**; therefore we should not hold anything back. We must love Him with everything.

The number one commandment is our love for God, what is the second? We must love our neighbour as ourselves. Most of us have no problem with the number one commandment but when it comes to number two we falter. How should we love our neighbour? As ourselves; and how do we love ourselves? We:

- Want the best
- Want all that is good



- Think well of ourselves
- Want to be treated with respect
- Are kind to ourselves
- Want to be showered with blessings
- Want the abundant life
- Want nothing negative

God has called us to treat our neighbours in a similar manner.

- **Give them the best.** Do not give to others what you do not want for yourself or that which you no longer want. Do not give others your garbage. Give to others only what is valuable not those things that have neither extrinsic nor intrinsic value.
- **Do good to them.** Help them with their problems. Forgive any misunderstanding between you and

them.

- **Think well of them.** Have good thoughts toward your neighbour. Pray for their success.
- **Treat them with respect.** Watch your tongue; do not be critical of your neighbour. The adage “sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me” is not all true. Words do hurt and the hurt may be deeper and last longer than a broken bone. Allow your neighbour the freedom to be him/herself.
- **Be kind to them.** Share your time, treasure or talent with them. Take some time to say hello and share a few words. Meet a need they have with your resources or use your skills to help them with a project they are working on or that needs to be

done.

- **Show blessings upon them.** Pray for them. Pray with them. Show that you care about them and what is happening in their lives. Surprise them with little deeds or gifts.
- **Help them to achieve the abundant life.** A holistically healthy life is the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. To help your neighbours to achieve it you will need to help them to be spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically and financially healthy.
- **Show them with all that is positive.** Take time to encourage your neighbours. Give them something to smile about. Be honest with them.

Do these and we are obeying Jesus' command to love our

neighbours. Do the opposite and we are helping the evil forces in the spiritual battle spoken about earlier. *“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?”* (1 John 3:17. KJV)

Who is our neighbour? All people; our best friends, our spouses, thieves, politicians, our enemies, Muslims, Rastafarians, street people, children, adults, etc.

According to 1 John 4:20-21 we cannot do number one (love God) without number two (love our neighbours).

*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment have we from him,*

*That he who loveth God love his brother also. (1  
John 4:20-21. KJV)*

Number one is manifested in number two. Jesus has commanded us to love our neighbours; in what practical ways can we demonstrate our love for them? We ought to know our neighbours so well that we are aware of their goals and aspirations, as well as their hurts and needs. We should meet those needs that they are unable to meet themselves.

Church members should not prefer to keep their needs to themselves, rather than share them, because they are afraid of others reactions, especially if it is because they did so and got burnt. Conversely if we have never shared our needs with others but feel we should keep our hurts and needs to ourselves; then we are not allowing our

brothers and sisters to minister to us as Christ has blessed them. We are operating from a perspective that may be false or true but we cannot say for sure unless we share our hurts and needs. We should also not be upset if we suffer silently as no one can fill those of our needs that we will not let show. Pride, a weapon used by the evil forces in the spiritual war being waged for our souls, prevents us from sharing in love, the major weapon God uses to defeat those evil forces.

Our gifts and talents are given to us to serve our neighbours in the Name of Jesus. We cannot love God if we do not love the humans we come in contact with (1 John 4: 20-21). How well are you serving others? When was the last time you used one of your gifts to bless someone who was in need? The Lord has given each of

us at least one gift that is the perfect solution for a need of someone in our sphere of interaction (usually, but not limited to, our Church home). Likewise He has placed a lack in each of us that can only be satisfied by someone in our sphere of interaction (usually, but not limited to, our Church home). When we can bring the two together we have the most fantastic spiritual fireworks that are beyond our wildest imaginings. You have work to do if you are not experiencing this on a regular basis. Congregations or auxiliaries may want to consider instituting a system where persons place their needs in a box and these needs are indicated to the congregation or auxiliary, without revealing who. Have persons indicating how they can help and match the need with a willing giver. Jesus said we, His disciples, should be

known by our love. Can you be identified as a Christian by the love you are exhibiting?

Jesus himself said He came not to be served but to serve.

*“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,”* (Mark 10:45. KJV). Likewise

we, His disciples, should not seek to be served but to serve. James, His brother, also said faith without works

is dead. *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* (James 2:17. KJV) So we demonstrate our

faith through the way we serve God by serving our brothers and sisters (neighbours) here on earth.

You may be asking: what are the benefits of my **love in action**? Firstly, Jesus commanded us to and therefore we should be satisfied in knowing we are doing His will; but there are other benefits for you and the person you are



serving.

- Yours and the recipient's dopamine levels rise giving a number of health benefits along with feeling good e.g. joy, peace, memory, attention and sleep.
- Feels connected to God in a special way.
- Yours and the recipient's stress levels are reduced.
- Your resources are replenished to much more than you had before (the more you bless others the more God blesses you).
- Healthy spirit, mind and body.
- Lives longer.
- The fruit of the Spirit flows from your inner being: love, peace, patience, joy, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Receive a “well done” reward from our Heavenly Father at the end of this age.

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: <sup>32</sup> And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: <sup>33</sup> And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: <sup>36</sup> Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and*

*ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

*<sup>37</sup> Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? <sup>38</sup> When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? <sup>39</sup> Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? <sup>40</sup> And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. <sup>41</sup> Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and ye took me not*

*in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. <sup>44</sup> Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?<sup>45</sup> Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. <sup>46</sup> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25: 31-46. KJV)*

You will be judged by what you do for others because what you do for others (good or bad) you do for God.

Christ's disciples must trust and love each other. Then the Church is truly alive and well.

## Reflection Questions

1. Are you allowing yourself to be God's love channel of service to others?
2. Have you been guilty of rebuffing someone who approached you with a need?
3. Have you been guilty of keeping your hurts and needs to yourself?
4. What can you do to ensure your neighbours' needs are being met in love?

## Chapter 5

# Distractions To Kingdom Dwelling

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

*(Matthew 6:33. KJV)*

Can God call on you at any time and find you available and prepared to be assigned to duty? Or, are you missing in action or busy, like Martha, with those things that are okay but are not essential to the development of your soul? We live in an era that is full of distractions. If you

are not careful you will be paralysed by busyness. If we are on mission for the Lord, we cannot afford distractions, but many of us fall prey to these things that tempt us away from our Father's business.

- **Busyness.** Everybody is busy. Work, meetings, chauffeuring, church and a long list of activities keep us busy all day and long into the night. This results in very little time left over for God. He gets the scrapings from the bottom of the barrel. It is said that busyness was invented by Satan to leave us little or no time to nurture our relationship with God. If we are not alert He will succeed. We need to put God first. He must be our first priority and when we do he will allow everything else to fall into place (Matthew 6:33). Schedule time to be with

God the same way we do other things. Put it in your diary and keep the appointment. It is best done first thing in the morning so you can set the tone for the rest of the day. You will find that God shows up in all your affairs for the day when you take the time to invite Him to do so in the morning.

- **Bread and Butter Issues.** Issues related to earning a living take up most of our waking hours. Many of us, when we are not actually working, spend time thinking about the job or how we can earn more to supplement what we are already earning. We worry about how we are going to pay the bills for ourselves and our family, send the children to school, pay medical fees, etc. We are on call to our place of employment and willingly give up God's activities



for work related ones because we are afraid to lose the job. We are on medication for high blood pressure, diabetes, heart problems and anxiety because of the stress related to keeping our employment. God gets second place although He is our ultimate financial source and not our employers. We throw away His instructions not to worry about tomorrow and to seek first His Kingdom.

*Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom*

*of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. <sup>34</sup> Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

(Matthew 6:31-34. KJV)

God will supply all our needs if we allow Him to.

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians

4:19. KJV) Everything in the universe belong to

Him. If we make the time to be with Him regularly,

he will see to our needs and wants without us

experiencing stress and anxiety.

- **Church Activities.** Not every church activity builds our relationship with God. Many of us are busy at

church for the wrong reasons. We are building ourselves and not God's Kingdom. Only those things, that will put us in the limelight or that will boost our ego, are done. The majority gives priority to some activities although others that are meant to further God's Kingdom were planned prior to them. So we attend funerals instead of mission activities in the community.

Taking on too many Church activities is also a distraction. We will not be able to give each one the focus it deserves. The fruit of our labour will be puny.

- **Tending Other People's Vineyards.** We are tending other people's vineyards while ours is overgrown with weeds and briars. We ignore the area in which

we are to serve to do activities that are serving God but which someone else was called to do. Many times this is done by invitation of the person called to do it. Problem is no one is tending the area in which you were called to serve. The following are reasons for doing so:

- *The Limelight.* We do not consider our ministry to be as prestigious as the other person's.
- *Shyness.* We may prefer to work in the background instead of on the front burner our ministry requires.
- *Low Self-Esteem/Ashamed.* Our low self-esteem prevents us from confidently serving in areas that are not considered to be as

prestigious as others. We are ashamed of our ministry and will use every opportunity given, even to the detriment of our ministry, to serve in a more prestigious area.

- *Lost Sight of our Dreams.* When we forget our dreams we start acquiring other persons' dreams.
- *Browbeaten by Others.* Other persons sometimes cannot understand why you would choose to serve in the area in which you are called to serve and will relentlessly implore you to serve in their ministry. Or friends and family will project their dreams for your life to push you into serving in other ways than you are called.

- ***Teasing.*** Not many of us can withstand being teased and so will leave a not so prestigious ministry for another of a higher status.
  
- ***Not Allowing God to Lead.*** We allow self and our intellect to decide where we serve instead of God. We take on many assignments that will further our agenda while allowing God's agenda to rot.
  
- ***Envy.*** This four-letter word that should not be found in God's flock rears its ugly head too often for comfort. In our eyes someone else is doing better because of where they are located. So we ignore our Ministry to serve in theirs or someone with a similar ministry every opportunity you get.

- *Supporting Others.* Persons will attend an activity to support their friends or family rather than activities to further God's Kingdom. Prime examples are funerals and weddings. Mission and Bible Study will get shunted to oblivion to accommodate these. *“And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.”* <sup>60</sup> *Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.”*  
(Luke 9:59-60. KJV)

Regardless of the reason for ignoring your ministry you are going to be held responsible for it. Your ministry should be your first priority. God is watching how well you handle the lowly or small

stuff to promote you to handling greater stuff.

*He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. <sup>23</sup>His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:22-23. KJV)*

- **Friends.** No matter our age we suffer from peer pressure. Many times our friends influence our decision to attend Church, spend time with God or to serve others in Jesus' Name. Sometimes it is subtle in that you are invited to an event at a time when you have a Church activity or you are



encouraged to upgrade your car because the troublesome one you currently have does not befit a daughter of the Most High God. At other times you are teased or told outright that Church is for idiots. If you are not firmly rooted in your faith you may succumb to the leading of your friends. Not wanting to be different from everyone else is a huge distraction to serving God. God made you unique for a reason. It is okay to serve Him differently.

You should pray constantly for your friends, especially those that are not Christians. Talking to them about Christ in a loving non-threatening manner should help in leading them to Christ. God places non-Christians in your sphere of interaction for you to introduce them to Him. He decides when

the time is right to save them but you must plant the seed and continue to water as long as is necessary.

- **Your Biases.** Our political, social, spiritual, educational and other biases or leanings may influence our Godly activities. The policies of a political party may be in conflict with Christ's teachings. Your involvement with this party would compromise your Christianity and therefore would be a distraction. Where our biases are in conflict with God we need to decide how we engage with these entities or issues. The business of the Most High God should always take first place for us His Children. Therefore if we are leaning towards something that will not please Him we should turn

in a different direction to ensure that our will reflects His will.

- **Family.** Family can distract us from serving God in a number of ways. The time spent caring for and interacting with the family can interfere with time that should be used worshipping God or doing service as unto Him. Family members that do not see the importance of the time spent with God could also discourage your worship. Other family members may themselves be Christians but do not understand the dream God has given you and so do everything they possibly can to dissuade you. God did not give them the dream because they cannot handle it. He placed His confidence in you when He placed the dream in your heart. Do not let Him

down by allowing yourself to be distracted by their thoughts. You have to remain focused on God and the dream He has placed on your heart so that nobody can dissuade you from doing God's will.

- **Culture.** The traditions of your culture may interfere with your worship and time you spend with God. Worship in the western culture has evolved into a cursory hour or two on Sundays or Saturdays, may be a few daily minutes in family devotion and may be an hour of Bible Study and prayer on a weekday. For many Christians it is more an act of duty rather than heartfelt worship. God deserves more of our time. The accompaniments to worship and the method of worship vary according to ethnic groups. Some groups have a robust

worship with drums and other musical instruments while others are more subdued in their worship. Do not allow yourself to be hung up on any method. The Lord loves variety. Look at the variety in nature. God is more concerned about your heart than how you worship. Loud robust or quiet reflective; it is up to you. Whatever you are comfortable with and whatever makes you feel more connected to God. Dance if you feel like it. We need to stop getting hung up on political correctness and manmade social rules. King David, a man after God's own heart, danced in praise to God, removing His outer garment in the process. His wife, the daughter of the former king, having been brought up in the palace, thought he was

uncouth and undignified. God is more interested in people's heart than if the person is dressed in casual wear at a formal function or if they shouted at the wrong time in a Worship Service. Do not allow tradition in your community or denomination to dictate how you worship. Worship according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- **Perfectionism.** In the western world we have been socialized to value intellect over spirituality. In doing so we have come to rely more on our own power than that of God. Many times the Holy Spirit attempts to protect us from evil but we reason ourselves out of that protection. How many times have you attempted to make a decision and a thought came out of nowhere telling you not to

make that decision. You analyse the situation, decides to go ahead and find that it was a bad decision. That thought that came out of nowhere was the Holy Spirit directing you but because we have been taught to place more value on our intellect we reason ourselves into sticky places and situations constantly. The major reason for this is; the same education system that taught us to value the intellect more also taught us that part of valuing the intellect is to seek perfection. You must strive for one hundred percent. God is not interested in perfection as we know it. What is more important to Him is a willing heart. Get in tune with your spirit and allow it to connect with the Holy Spirit for your daily guide and for all decision making.

- **Gadgets.** Many of us spend our lives chasing after bright shiny objects or the latest craze. We dedicate much of our time to using these objects. We surf the internet, play cricket or some other sport, party or do some other activity that robs time that could be spent with God. Any activity, person or thing that takes away time that should be spent with God has become an idol in your life. Take an inventory of the time you spend with various activities, persons or objects. Are you spending more time with these things than with God? If you are then you need to make time for God. You may need to schedule the time you spend with each, including God, making sure there is a healthy balance in the time spent with each.



Allowing yourself to be distracted from serving your Lord will result in a life where you are just existing and not living life to the max. Take an inventory of your life to find the distractors or potential distractors to serving God with your heart, soul, mind and body. Take steps to lose these distractions from your life. Focus on God and ask Him to give you all you will need to stay focused on Him. Doing so will give you time to connect with God and to have a victorious spirit-filled life.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Which of the distractions mentioned in this chapter do you struggle with?
2. Are there other things that distract you from serving

God?

3. What can you do to lessen the effects of these distractions?

## Chapter 6

# Preparation For Your Mission

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against  
the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11. KJV)*

While we are all required to introduce others to Jesus Christ, each of us has a special part to play in God's Kingdom here on earth. God equips us according to that part we are required to play.

Some of us are teachers. God gifts us the gift of teaching.

We are able to present information to persons in a manner that makes it easy for them to understand. If you have been given the gift of teaching then God expects that you will use this gift in His Kingdom. This should be your weapon of choice in the spiritual war against the enemy of God. Some are given the gift of generating money. That is their weapon of choice. Others may be given the gift of keeping the environment clean. That is their weapon of choice in the spiritual war. What is your gift? Is it being used to further God's Kingdom here on earth or are you only using it to earn a living? Many of us are using our God-given gifts in a secular manner but refuse to use them to minister to others on behalf of our heavenly Father. When we do this we are saying by our actions that what is done in the secular world is more

important than that which is done for God.

Each of us is given a gift or talent by the Holy Spirit to carry out our mission as a member of the Church Universal also known as the Body of Christ or Christianity. The clue to our mission comes from the gift or gifts we are given.

Your personal mission or purpose uses your talents or spiritual gifts. To determine your gift or talent answer the following questions:

1. What do you love to do?
2. What are you naturally good at?
3. What do others tell you that you are good at?

If we are not using our gift in the Body of Christ then one of the following scenarios exist:

- Someone is overloaded because they are doing your duty and theirs. This also means that both duties are not being done at their best because this person is being stretched thin.
- Your duty is not being carried out.
- Your duty is being done by someone who is willing but who the Holy Spirit did not equip for this task and therefore it is being done in a substandard manner. It also means that the person's task is being neglected.

It is therefore very important that we ensure that we are on mission and not neglecting our duties. If your Church leaders will not facilitate the use of your gift in your congregation; find a way outside of the congregation to do so. A preacher once told me that when she was

instructed by the Holy Spirit to start preaching her Church leaders would not allow her to. She was sure that was what God wanted her to do so she started preaching on the buses. She led many people to Christ on the buses. After a while her Church leaders heard about it and allowed her to preach at her Church. Obey the leading of the Holy Spirit at all times but at the same time being respectful to your Church leaders.

Preparation for a mission can determine its success or failure. We need to turn to God our Father and allow His Holy Spirit to fight our battles. How do we do this? We do as Paul says in Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV):

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the*

*wiles of the devil.* <sup>12</sup> *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

<sup>13</sup> *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.* <sup>14</sup> *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;* <sup>15</sup> *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;* <sup>16</sup> *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

<sup>17</sup> *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:* <sup>18</sup> *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the*



*Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

You put on the armour of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes; allowing God to protect your body and soul from evil forces.

- **Belt of truth.** We must seek after the truth which is found in God almighty, let that truth soak into our being and demonstrate it in all our dealings. Be honest, speak the truth at all times and do not deceive people.
- **Breastplate of righteousness.** Do those things that God says are right not those things that we think are right. Allow your God to guide your conscience and to direct your actions.

- **Shoes – Preparation of the gospel of peace.** Be so acquainted with the gospel of Christ that you are able to maintain your peace in all situations. Nothing or anyone will be able to entice you to walk into a trap that will make you lose your cool. Seek to maintain peace with all people, even your enemies.
- **Shield of faith.** Trust God to provide all you will need for your mission and to keep you safe from all evil. Remember *“faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1. KJV).
- **Helmet of salvation.** To be covered and protected by God we must submit our lives to Him. Our belief in Jesus and the hope it brings will keep our minds

safe from the control of the devil.

- **Sword of the Spirit.** Read your Bible daily and allow the words to penetrate your heart. Let the Words of the Bible be a guide to your life. Study them and use them to defeat the devil when he tempts you to do wrong.
- **Praying always.** We must pray for clarity of the details of our ministry. Specifically what does God want you to do? Ask Him to provide the resources you will need and to guide your steps along the way.

You should always be dressed in your armour, ready for duty. A few minutes a day is not enough to be fully dressed. You must spend time with God replenishing for the mission. Jesus did it, as His followers, so should we.

Each day we should:

- Study His Word
- Give Him thanks
- Speak to Him in prayer
- Intercede (pray) for others
- Seek clarity for your mission
- Listen to Him in silence

While our spiritual preparation is important, we must also ensure that the other elements of our health are in good shape. We must be emotionally, mentally and physically well.

- **Emotional.** Participate in fun-filled activities that will make you laugh. Get to know persons well, share your feelings and forgive yourself and others.
- **Mental.** Seek out new ideas, try a new hobby or class, or read a book. Keep a positive attitude and

try to see other people's point of view through their eyes.

- **Physical.** Eat whole, real, fresh, organic, unprocessed food, lots of fruits and vegetables with colourful phytonutrients and foods with plenty fibres. Drink unsweetened fruit or vegetable juice and 6-8 eight-ounce glasses of filtered water daily. Have smaller more frequent meals to keep your blood sugar even and to prevent swings in energy, mood and appetite. Avoid eating less than three hours before bed time. Do a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise daily. Get at least eight hours of sleep each night.

Fear that we are not good enough, that we do not know enough or that we are not spiritual enough, paralyse

many of us preventing us from participating in a ministry. But if we wait for conditions to be perfect we will never get anything done. *“He who watches the wind [waiting for all conditions to be perfect] will not sow [seed], and he who looks at the clouds will not reap [a harvest].”* (Ecclesiastes 11:4. AMP) You just need to have met the Saviour to introduce Him to others. He promised that the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say and do.

## Reflection Questions

1. What is the ministry or mission that God has called you to?

2. In what ways has God prepared you for this mission?
3. How prepared do you feel for this ministry?
4. Delay is danger, are you stepping out in the care of the Holy Spirit to do your mission? Why?

## Chapter 7

### Partnership With Christ

*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*(Romans 8:17. KJV)*

If we are being led by the Spirit of God we are children of God. As children of God we are joint heirs with Christ. We will get an inheritance from Papa God. As joint heirs with Christ we share the same inheritance as Jesus.

When you accept Christ as your Saviour you make a



decision to live by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Having decided to live by the Holy Spirit you put to death, or you stopped doing, those things that are of the flesh or the carnal mind. *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”* (Romans 8:13. KJV) If we were to have continued being led by the flesh then death would be our reward but having been adopted by the Spirit we have passed from death to life, sharing an inheritance with Christ. When we leave this earth we transition to a new life of living in the Spirit.

*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. <sup>3</sup> And every man that hath this*

*hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. (1  
John 3:2-3. KJV)*

How can you tell if you are living in the flesh or in the Spirit? You know by your actions. Paul in his epistle to the Galatians gives some pertinent examples of characteristics that are evidence of living in the flesh and the Spirit.

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom*

*of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup>Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (Galatians 5:19-26. KJV)*

Note Paul said the fruit of the Spirit which suggests that the characteristics listed are all elements of one fruit. We need to exhibit all not some.

According to Paul when you are walking in the flesh you will be known by one or more of the following.

- **Adultery.** A married person engaging in sexual activities with someone who is not their spouse.

- **Fornication.** Participating in sexual activities before you are married.
- **Uncleanness.** Evil, impure thoughts.
- **Lasciviousness.** Lustful, wanton, lewd behaviour.
- **Idolatry.** Worshipping idols.
- **Witchcraft.** Practicing magic.
- **Hatred.** Intense dislike of another person.
- **Variance.** A state of inconsistency, controversy or dissension.
- **Emulations.** Jealous rivalry.
- **Wrath.** Strong, extreme or fierce anger.
- **Strife.** Bitter conflict or discord.
- **Seditions.** Incitement or rebellion against a government.
- **Heresies.** Opinion or belief contrary to accepted

doctrine.

- **Envyings.** Feelings of discontent, resentful longing or covetousness regarding someone else's success, possessions or qualities.
- **Murders.** To kill someone unlawfully usually premeditated.
- **Drunkenness.** The state of being drunk or intoxicated with alcohol.
- **Revellings.** Boisterous merrymaking or festivities.

Reading this scripture passage without taking the time to reflect on the words; you may think you are not walking in the flesh. But if you take the time to reflect on the meaning of the words you may be surprised to realise that you are walking in the flesh. If you are walking in the flesh you will have no part in the Kingdom

of God.

Paul also indicated that when you walk in the Spirit you exhibit the following.

- **Love.** A warm feeling of personal attachment or deep affection.
- **Joy.** A feeling of great pleasure and happiness
- **Peace.** Mental or emotional calm, tranquillity.
- **Longsuffering.** Having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially those caused by another person.
- **Gentleness.** Being kind, tender or mild-mannered.
- **Goodness.** Kindly feeling, generosity.
- **Faith.** Complete confidence or trust in God.
- **Meekness.** Gentle or kind.
- **Temperance.** Moderation, self-restraint, self-

control.

To inherit eternal life we must walk in the Spirit. Having walked in the Spirit here on earth you will share in Jesus' inheritance in the resurrection. What is Jesus' inheritance? The writer of Hebrews says all things.

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (Hebrews 1:1-2. KJV)*

We are therefore also joint heirs of all things.

Are you walking in the Spirit? To live a victorious life in God's Kingdom, here on earth and in the next life, we must walk in the Spirit now. You have a choice. The choice you make now will determine not only your

future life here on earth but your eternity. Make your choice; will you walk in the flesh or in the Spirit?

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What does walking in the Spirit mean to you?
2. How well are you walking in the Spirit?
3. What do you need to change in your life to ensure that you will be a joint heir with Jesus in the resurrection?





## About The Author

Veronica Sutherland is an author, mentor and speaker who introduces persons to the great transformer of lives, Jesus Christ; so that they can live the powerfully victorious, joyful and peaceful lives they were created to live.

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