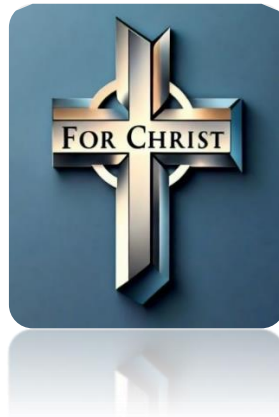


All



A Lightbearers Gospel Perspective.

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PART ONE – IS THIS ALL THERE IS?

Have you ever said to yourself, Is this all there is? You are a faithful, blood bought child of God, faithful to God and your church, and looking forward to Heaven someday. But your heart keeps longing for more of God and in God. Are you that one? Is your heart saying, there must be more in the walk in Christ than just being forgiven, as wonderful as that is, then being a good person and waiting for Heaven. If that is you, then we need to make the journey from the Cross to the Throne!

...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:15 NKJV

You don't see it in the Gospels, the fullness of the believers perfect standing in Christ. You don't see it in Acts; even though there were great examples to follow, the vast majority of the believers were still zealous for the law (Acts 21:20). So, where do you find out who we are in Christ? Where do we find out the truth about the mystery that has been kept secret from ages and from generations which, had the adversary known, he would not have crucified the Lord of Glory? Where do we see the believer's hope, and their perfect standing of being seated at the right of the Almighty? We see it in the Church Epistles.

“There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” Rom 3:10-12 NKJV

The Church Epistles begin with Romans. Romans was the subject that the monk named Luther was teaching when he understood the reality that the just shall live by faith and proceeded to nail his '95 Theses' to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany. Romans crushes the great lie that is the bedrock of all religion, that man can justify himself by good works before a righteous and holy God. Man cannot justify himself; therefore, he needed a perfect Substitute that only God could supply – Jesus!

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Rom 3:15-20 NKJV

The law was mapped out by Jehovah to Adam, Eve and the serpent, in Genesis 3 verse 14 onwards. There is no reversing these curses, though man tried by trying to keep the law through keeping what is sacred undefiled (which was the task of Moses and all Israelites though they failed time after time) because man is born outside the garden into the fallen world of a private self, where our fleshly body and mind is constantly fed on (dust of the earth) by Satan the Accuser, whose job it now is to constantly accuse us of being naked (separate, different, from all else).

The great lie of all religion is that man by his good works can get to Heaven. Romans crushes that lie! You might want to tell this to your friends and neighbors when you are witnessing to them. 'Somebody lied to you, buddy, but here...look at Romans!'

We want to hit some of the great highlights of Romans and the Cross as a foundation before we move on to Ephesians and the Throne. Sometimes you must think about and appreciate the foundation, the rock on which an edifice is built to fully appreciate the structure above it. We have to walk in Romans righteousness before we can fully access Ephesians glory!

[The Word of Truth (Christ) must become flesh within us, an unshakable reality, before we can realize the Glory of the Father (God's manifest power) which Jesus Christ first realized.

Romans teaches that man is hopeless and helpless (the character John Newton, in the film AMAZING GRACE, says, "One thing I know – I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior!") But God sends a great rescuer in Jesus Christ!

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith...Rom 3:21-25 NKJV

I get so excited about this truth because I know what healing and deliverance it brings to everyone's hearts! This word pierces right through the facades of men's lives and brings life to their innermost beings. It brings true healing to the broken hearts of men, which then prepares them for miracles!

Romans Five should be on everyone's daily reading assignment until you are completely immersed in its great revelation. Your heart can change in an instant but the paradigms of your soul have to be recalibrated to recognize a new YOU. Romans Five contrasts Adam's sin with God's redemption.

Here is a nugget that is pure gold!

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Rom 5:17 NKJV

What we have learned in ministering healing is that a person's sense of guilt and unworthiness can keep them from receiving their healing. We've also learned that if they are taught to receive an abundance of grace, and to receive the gift of righteousness, they can overcome their bitterness and guilt and receive their healing, their miracle, their breakthrough.

The context in Romans Five ends and jumps immediately to Romans Eight. Romans Six and Seven are a parenthetical insertion that answer four great questions. Look at what we see in the end of Romans Five and the beginning of Romans Eight!

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 18 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 5:18-21 NKJV

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:1-3 NKJV

[Aside from what is prescribed by the law, which sets a fixed standard, a display of God's righteousness has been revealed in Jesus. It is now possible for humans to understand this righteousness of God and showcase it as well, as Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

God is Spirit, the eternal source of absolute good. And in this goodness lies righteousness, because God only ever acts in the best interest of all, all of the time. This holy (whole) will is always righteous (right) because it is never particular but always selfless. So, once we submit to the will of God, he will always guide us towards what is right. As humans, we have been granted the gift of understanding, through our desiring what is right and communion with God through Christ in us, our ability to put these divine ideals into action connects us with the divine right and good that governs all things.

Turning from habitual thoughts and desires that keep us trapped in the web of guilt and shame, renewing our minds by dwelling on the truth that Christ now lives within us, quickens our spiritual perception of life (as Christ is the quickening Spirit). As we embrace our Christ nature by choosing to align ourselves with the same truths that Jesus knew of himself (thought it not robbery to be equal with God) our fallen,

carnal nature begins to be transformed into a universal individuality, instead of the personal and limited self we are all born into first since the Fall of Adam and Eve. By eating the manna from Heaven, the body and blood of Jesus Christ (the bread of life) we synthesize our souls into selfless, unbounded love, wisdom, and strength of God, these qualities in turn strengthen our faith even further. Our faith guides us according to our individual needs, enlightening us as we go so we can work out or own salvation through the particular struggles we must each overcome to fully realize and live in the truth that we are now the offspring of God in Christ.]

He made me free from the law of sin and death, not through my worthless works but through His perfect work on my behalf. Do you see WHY there is no condemnation for the believer? Because Jesus reversed all the effects of Adam's sin and restored man's original nature of holiness and righteousness before the Father. Adam's nature results in sin, sickness, poverty and death, but Jesus completely annihilated the Adamic nature in the believer and replaced it with the sinless nature of God Himself – Christ in you the hope of glory!

[Before Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they knew and freely accepted that they were one with God. There was no concept within them of a private and personal self. After eating of the tree of good and evil a psychological split was created and instead of seeing themselves and God as One, they began to see themselves as something other and different from God, "they hid themselves." "They knew they were naked." We can never hide ourselves from the omnipresent and omniscient God but for their own protection God cast them out of the garden where they were free to live in the delusion of their private self and over millennia work out their own salvation in the world of polar opposites, our 3-dimensional universe. Where instead of just life and love, there is other, up and down, forward and back, left and right, good and evil. We were forever trapped within this world of polarities struggling to claw our way to God but instead of our feeble attempts to break into heaven ("take heaven with violence") God provided the body and personality of Jesus the Christ who was the first (first fruits) to realize his absolute unity with God the Father. And so, we no longer need to eat of the tree of Good and Evil but through the righteousness of Christ we can now eat of the tree of life, which is the body of Jesus who constantly protects our personal fallen

selves with his universal Identity in Christ, the perfect image and likeness of God, which we are now to put on. Galatians 3:26-29

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes".

This is why the veil to the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom, divided (torn) in 2 so that we can enter in and be One with God once more. Now the flaming sword of the Cherubim that guards the gates of Eden does us no harm because we are filled with the sword of the spirit already, which is the word of truth, and now "no condemnation can be brought against us." If we ever feel our old carnal nature slithering its way back in, we can plead the blood of Jesus, until we are fully re-generated into his image and likeness and the Great Red Dragon (the Accuser, who tells us we are naked) is cast into the lake of eternal fire which is Christ consciousness, or, our eternal perception of our oneness with God, as we now have the mind of Christ and God is an all-consuming fire.]

When you and I finally stop condemning ourselves, finally stop trying to attain righteousness, whether that means acceptance in a group, or 'success' in our worldly lives, or achievements that 'leave a legacy;' when we finally leave all those old, sad trappings behind and step up to who we are in Him, then we are ready to go to the Throne. Oh, how my heart leaps and is thrilled at these great truths! I see

in them all the possibilities of a brand-new life for every man, for every woman, for every child, no matter how hopeless their lives may seem, no matter how broken and worthless their circumstances may have become. Romans Eight ends the doctrinal section in Romans, which then picks up in Ephesians, with these great statements:

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 3c As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 3S nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:31-3S NKJV

More than conquerors! Nothing can separate us! If God be for us, who can be against us? How shall He not freely give us all things? How my heart is thrilled as I think of YOU believing these words, of me believing them, and us walking together, knowing that nothing is impossible to those who believe. We haven't even gotten to Ephesians yet!

Before we leave Romans, we must look at one great section in Romans six that is the first great command to the believers in the Church epistles. Jesus said, If you love Me, keep My commandments. This is Jesus' first great command as Head of the Body, commanding His Body to align with Him. When Jesus died, we died with Him. When He arose, we arose with Him. This is Romans!

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, c knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, S knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Here Is the command. LOGIZOMAI means to reckon as in a ledger, all of our indebtedness on one side, Jesus' full propitiation on the other side, and we conclude that ALL of our debts are paid through Him¹. Sin and death have no more claim on us! We are alive unto God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon (Grk. LOGIZOMAI) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THEREFORE always introduces a practical application of the aforementioned truth.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Rom c:5-14 NKJV

Present yourselves to God! How? When? First thing in the morning, every day. How? Pray like this, "ABBA Father, I am Yours. Teach me, guide me, correct me, forgive me, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Prepare me to walk in the authority and power of Heaven. Thank You ABBA!" Pray and listen with your full attention, and ABBA will speak!

John G Lake loved his fine suits of clothes. Every day he would stand in front of a mirror and declare, “God dwells in that suit of clothes, and wherever that suit of clothes goes, God goes with it!”²

...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Eph 2:c-7 NKJV

¹ Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the Greek New Testament.

² Copeland, John G Lake: His Life, His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith

Our spiritual journey is from sin and death unto the throne of God, from Romans One to Ephesians Three, from the lowest to the Highest, eternal death to eternal life. When we know who we are as sons and daughters of His, as princes and princesses in the royal family of God, then the authority of a judge backed by Heaven will flow out of us. I don't care how low you feel now, how bad your circumstances seem, when you begin to truly believe what we are seeing here in the Word, your life will rise up in glory and power and blessing. The fire of God will consume every negative thing and leave you filled with glory at the right hand of the Lord almighty. Pray in the Spirit and let your heart be so filled with His Word that you freely, joyfully present yourself to Him daily...and He will raise you up so that the glory in your life is so great that you can hardly even remember the times of the past when you suffered in ignominy. We are going on to the Throne of God.

[Heaven is the state of being that aligns with the thoughts/ideals of God. It exists everywhere, an orderly and harmonious manifestation of God's kingdom in our minds, bodies, and lives.

Jesus spoke of heaven as a place within us, where the kingdom of God resides (Luke 17:21). It is not a physical location, but a spiritual one.

Heaven and earth represent two states of being: ideals and their corresponding manifestations. As mentioned in Revelation 21:1, we are meant to have new ideas that will manifest in our earthly lives (new heaven and new earth).

God envisioned these two realms of consciousness - heaven being the realm of pure ideas and earth being the realm of thought forms. Heaven is where divine ideas are already fully realized, and we on this earth are the vessels which can tap into these ideals, acting as conduits to bring them into existence on earth, through the process of time and space. This is why Christ always taught the kingdom of heaven in parables, referring it to something that grows and expands, as a mustard seed, seed scattered along a path, leaven that expands a loaf, etc. And just as a loaf bakes and reaches a perfect point to where it is done, so we will reach a singularity point where we ascend in consciousness as Christ did, this is the time when we experience the full revelation of Jesus Christ which is what the book of Revelation is all about. After which we will dwell within the cube (new Jerusalem) or fully redeemed 3- dimensional realm, as the cube perfectly represents our physical universe. God will be eternally enthroned at our center, our heart, and the Lamb of God or humbled and purified ego, will be with him to enact his will.

This is the inevitable end to all creation, (the purpose of life) why eating of the tree of knowledge was always part of the plan, as for God to truly incarnate in his creation, his creation out of its own freewill, had to learn to humble itself and come back to God as a vessel, not a prideful, egotistical, creature, as perfectly demonstrated through the life of Jesus of Nazareth. By becoming the lowest, we become the highest. This is why it is the Lamb, the meekest, which has the authority to open the seven seals.]

PART TWO - EPHESIANS ONE AND THE THRONE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual

blessing in the heavenly places in Christ... Eph 1:3 NKJV

In the early to mid 1800's Americans migrated from the east coast to the west coast, forming what we know today as the continental United States of America. From 1846 –1869 over 400,000 settlers crossed what was called the Oregon Trail to find new lives on the west coast.³ They crossed uncharted territory with guides who had explored the trail and followed landmarks that took them to their destination. Today, we are on a journey in our renewed minds to the throne of God. Our guide is the Holy Spirit. I've laid out for you six landmarks in Romans, starting with the Cross in Romans Three. If you want to make the journey, make sure you are established, you are strong in each truth that makes up the landmark. The Oregon Trail took about six months to cross, but the settlers had a vision and a determination to reach their goal. Our goal, walking in Throne authority and favor, is reachable, and worthy of our supreme effort. How long it takes to reach there is up to each one of us!

For far too long, the Church has been camped at the Cross, and thus has missed out on so many of the blessings of the Throne. The Cross is wonderful and an absolute first step in the walk in God, but there is much, much more. We must put on in our minds and heart the realities of the Cross, of Romans, then we are prepared to receive the realities of the Throne, in Ephesians. Are you ready?

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for (which is) instruction in righteousness, 2 Tim 3:1c NKJV

The Church Epistles consist of what are essentially seven books: Romans, 1C2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1C2 Thessalonians. Romans is a doctrinal treatise with its corresponding books of 1C2 Corinthians correcting practical error in relation to Romans doctrine, and Galatians correcting doctrinal error in relation to Romans doctrine.

Ephesians is a doctrinal treatise that has Philippians and Colossians correcting practical and doctrinal error. Thessalonians is a doctrinal treatise corresponding to the Church's great Hope which has no practical possibility of error, so thus no corresponding epistles.

Romans – doctrinal treatise – the Cross – died and raised with Christ.

1C2 Corinthians – epistle – corrects practical error regarding Romans doctrine. Galatians – epistle – corrects doctrinal error regarding Romans doctrine.

Ephesians – doctrinal treatise – the Throne – raised and seated with Christ.

Philippians – epistle – corrects practical error regarding Ephesians doctrine.

Colossians – epistle – corrects doctrinal error regarding Ephesians doctrine.

1C2 Thessalonians – doctrinal treatise – the great Hope of the Church.⁴

Right at the chewy caramel center of these books is Ephesians. Ephesians is the apex of the revelation to the Church. Romans shows us who we were and who we have become. Ephesians shows us who we are and who we will be for all eternity. Romans gives us victory over sin and condemnation. Ephesians restores Adamic authority and more and makes us to be rulers and judges at God's right hand. Ephesians reveals the great mystery that was kept secret from ages and

³ Wikipedia, The Oregon Trail

⁴ Bullinger, Appendix 192, The Pauline Epistles, The Companion Bible generations, and most especially the devil, revealing the Church of both Jews and Gentiles as God's POIEMA, His masterpiece, with each member filled with Christ and part of His body. Are you with me?

Ephesians 1:15-23 contains the first great prayer in Ephesians. It is called Paul's prayer, and that is valid, but in a greater sense it is the Holy Spirit's prayer, for He is the Author of Ephesians while Paul is the writer, which is true of all of Scripture, which is why the original God breathed Word was perfect. Why

would God be praying? Because His desires and His ability to affect those desires are two different things. He CAN'T make someone get born again nor can He MAKE you believe the Scriptures, thus His prayers become an expression of His desires for you and I. He expresses His perfect will, the best a man or woman or child can have, in these prayers. Do you see?

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28 NKJV

I believe that when you are not specifically interceding over something in tongues then you are praying out the HS's prayers in the Church Epistles over yourself. THIS is why all things work together for the best possible result when you pray in tongues! Don't you wish EVERYONE prayed in tongues?

Here is the first great prayer. Since this the HS's prayer, and Paul's prayer, shouldn't this be YOUR prayer if you are a minister of God as you pray for God's people?

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

First, your faith and love position you to receive the fruit of this prayer. The importance of this prayer and the one in Ephesians Three, is that it releases to us as the Church the knowledge, power and authority to rule over the universe as one who is seated at God's right hand.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory (our glorious ABBA) may give (Grk. DIDOMAI) to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding (Grk. KARDIAS) being enlightened (Grk. PHOTIZO); that you may know (Grk. EIDO) what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding (Grk. HUPERBALLON) greatness (Grk. MEGETHOS) of His power (Grk. DUNAMIS) toward us who believe (Grk. PISTEUO), according to (Grk. KATA) the working of His mighty (Grk. ISCHUOS) power (Grk. KRATOS) 20 which He worked (Grk. ENERGEIO) in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph 1:15-23 NKJV

This prayer has all the great NT power words in it because this is about restoring Adamic authority to the Church. Adam was no weakling. Adam spoke to and ruled over the animals. Adam probably could move from one place to another instantly⁵, because Jesus could, and Stephen and others

⁵ Otis, The Twilight Labyrinth, pg 101

were able to at different times and had revelation knowledge of everything that was happening around the world. Adam ruled as a judge over all the earth, and probably did so for several decades before the Fall. What could occur if the Church truly grasped Adamic authority?

Let's go through the highlighted words, then we will talk about the practical application.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory (our glorious ABBA)...

First, we see our glorious ABBA – our new birth FATHER. We are not adopted from some other father. He is our birth Father and He has loved us from before the foundation of the world. I can honestly say I loved my birth children from the time I was first aware that I would and could be a father, even before I was married. ABBA has loved us from time immemorable!

...may give (Grk. DIDOMAI) to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge (Grk. EPIGNOSIS) of Him...

ABBA has given us – DIDOMAI⁶ – these revelation and power gifts. They are given in the sense that

they are laid out on a banquet table but now you must receive them. At a buffet you go through a line and receive portions of the different delicacies made available. If you don't you just go hungry! If we don't receive these gifts, we as a Church will go hungry, and the world will continue to starve, because all creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. Understand this: even the people that hate you desperately need you – we are the sheepdogs; we protect everyone (Acts 27:24) – and even those who reject you must come to you, because you carry the light of the world. Do you get it?

EPIGNOSIS is the full, experiential knowledge of Him⁷. He reveals Himself, He lays Himself out portion by portion in those times when you are alone with Him, like a dad who takes his son on a fishing trip, or to a baseball game. The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits (Daniel 11:32). You must know God. Even doing miracles does not replace knowing God (Matt.7:21- 23). Do you see how important your times of prayer are?

...the eyes of your understanding (Grk. KARDIAS) being enlightened (Grk. PHOTIZO)...

KARDIAS is literally HEARTS, meaning here the heart of your heart, you inner man, which – yes – has eyes, in fact, five spiritual senses. PHOTIZO is to make your inner man radiant with light, driving out all darkness, making you a lightbearer (Phil. 2:15)⁸.

...that you may know (Grk. EIDO)...

EIDO means to see and thereby know⁹. We have our English word VIDEO that comes from this Greek word. We are to see and know three things experientially:

The hope of His calling,

The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

⁶ Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance To The English And Greek New Testament.

⁷ See above.

⁸ See above.

⁹ See above

The exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe.

What is the hope of His calling? We are called and appointed as sons and daughters of God, princes and princesses in the royal family of God, to represent Him and carry out His business here on the earth. As emissaries of Heaven we have the authority of Heaven supporting us. You may say, then why are so many Christians defeated, tortured, murdered? I may say, why are so many Christians delivered, blessed, triumphant? Each of us must believe, each of us must receive their full portions at the buffet table, or else we go hungry, or in some cases, far worse than hungry.

Jesus, our example and only standard, was never touched until He as the High Priest allowed Himself to be offered in death as the Passover Lamb. We are playing the most serious game! The hope of His calling is not just Heaven, but the hope that in this life we can live out the fullness of His individual calling of us.

How do we see His inheritances' glorious riches in the saints here on earth? Only through the eyes of love. Love can reveal that which everyone else is blind to. Jesus said, what you have done for the least of these My brethren, you have done for Me. When you see Jesus in that little unnoticed saint who can, in one sense, do nothing for you, then you are seeing through the eyes of love.

[The love of God is a universal harmonizing power. When Christ said, "God is love," he didn't mean in the sense of date nights and candle lit dinners. But love in the sense that God is pure bestowal, pure givingness that has no desire for self. In this way his love is perfect as it always will produce perfect harmony and balance to all things because it is non partial. This is how Jesus of Nazareth (the ego, or

personality of Christ) was able to carry out the crucifixion because he had merged himself perfectly into the true, purely selfless love of God, and “loved his life not, even unto death.”]

What is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe? I’m glad you asked!

...and what is the exceeding greatness (Grk. HUPERBALLO MEGETHOS) of His power (Grk. DUNAMIS) toward us who believe (Grk. PISTEUO)...

HUPERBALLO MEGETHOS – exceeding greatness! HUPERBALLO is a compound word, HUPER meaning ‘super’ and BALLO meaning ‘to throw.’¹⁰ A super throw! Willie Mays’ catch and throw in the ’54 World Series was amazing, but the greatest throw I ever saw in person was by Austin Slater of the Giants who caught the fly ball in deep left field and threw out the runner tagging from third base before he could score, a throw of over three hundred feet at over one hundred miles an hour...left me stunned, slack jawed, and rejoicing! That’s HUPERBALLO. As an adjective modifying the noun, HUPERBALLO communicates extraordinary, surpassing greatness being thrown out into the world so that everyone is without excuse, the kind our ABBA has demonstrated in the beauty of the whole creation. MEGETHOS sounds like the name of an ‘80’s heavy metal rock band, but this extraordinary word is only used one time in the Greek NT, right here¹¹.

DUNAMIS, the power that created the heavens and the earth is inherent spiritual power¹² in every born again one. When I think of DUNAMIS I think of Joshua commanding the sun and moon to stop,

¹⁰ Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #5235

¹¹ Englishmans Greek New Testament Concordance

¹² Bullingers

or Moses waving his rod and stretching out his hand over the Red Sea, or my friend Kiiza raising a dozen from the dead. JESUS!

...toward us who believe (Grk. PISTEUO)...

Brother Kenneth Hagin, whom I never met, has been, through his books and taped teachings, one of my great mentors, like Derek Prince. I just heard brother Hagin teach on growing your faith today.

First, he goes to great lengths to show us in the Word that faith is measurable, that everyone has a measure of faith that you can grow, and how to grow your faith so that you achieve tomorrow what you couldn’t receive today. You grow your faith by feeding your soul with the written Word and building up your spirit man by speaking in tongues. Do you want to do miracles? You can, but you must grow your faith. If you want to grow in the deep things of God, you can, but you must invest yourself totally. The demands of Jesus – he who loves father, mother, son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me¹³ – there are nothing like them in the military, in top level sports, or even the tops in any profession or endeavor. Love pays the price. We are playing the most serious game...

...according to (Grk. KATA) the working (Grk. ENERGEIA) of His mighty power (Grk. ISCHUOS KRATOS) 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...

I saw it again in the sports magazine article about a guy who repairs baseball gloves¹⁴. He loves his work and he sets the highest standards for his work. It’s always the same among the great ones – LOVE and THE HIGHEST STANDARDS. KATA, translated ‘according to’ sets a standard: the energizing of His mighty power. The exceeding greatness of the DUNAMIS in us is according to His mighty power. The power in us is so great we could have miracles every time we look at someone

(Luke 22:61, Acts 3:4). ENERGEIA is ‘energizing’¹⁵ – what energizes the power of God in you? We will develop that when we get to Ephesians Three. ISCHUOS KRATOS – ISCHUOS is might,

KRATOS is power with an impact¹⁶. We get our word crater, where something has struck a surface and the result is a crater, from the word KRATOS. Make an impact wherever you go!

21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

I love the fact that we can't blame the devil anymore for defeats in our contest. He's defeated! He's under our feet. We simply must assert our authority as sons and daughters seated on thrones of authority. We have set a standard in our schools that no one dies prematurely. This is unacceptable! When someone is reported sick, the prayer team is informed and prayer is made until they are well. We can do this individually as we are led, but the great manifestation of authority seems to come as we are in one accord as the Church.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

¹³ Mt 10:37

¹⁴ Sports Illustrated, April 2024

¹⁵ Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the Greek and English New Testament

¹⁶ Bullinger.

We will get to the Throne in Ephesians Two in our study, then on to the great mystery and prayer in Ephesians Three. Get ready to get blessed!

Finally, read and study this section and the others in this article until you understand the major points. If you have questions, write to me. Ask the Lord to teach you Romans Three, Romans Five, Romans Eight and Ephesians One, and don't settle for less than His best. Feed your soul with the Word and your spirit with speaking in tongues. You will know you are getting adequate feeding when faith starts to become easier. You are changing the whole religious paradigm of your life from being Cross oriented to being Throne oriented. This is a huge but necessary shift in order for you and I, and for the Church to be able to bless the world again. If you will do it, you will see the power of God walking with you wherever you go.

PART THREE - ON TO THE THRONE – EPHESIANS TWO WHAT IS A JUDGE?

Do you not know that the saints will judge (Grk. KRINO) the world? And if the world will be judged (GRK. KRINO) by you, are you unworthy to judge (Grk. KRITERION) the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge (Grk. KRINO) angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? 1 Cor c:2-4 NKJV

A judge is a person imbued with authority to examine evidence, test its integrity and compare it against existing law in order to render a verdict, a judgment. This is KRINO¹⁷. The judge makes reference to precedent – KRITERION¹⁸: a rule or standard of judging based on previous similar decisions – so that his judgment is consistent with the highest courts of the land.

We are going to see that you are a judge. For instance, when you go to pray for someone, you make a decision resulting in a decree or a command. You examine the evidence – the person has a disease. You determine whether the disease has a right to be there or not. After examining all the evidence, you compare the evidence against 'case law' – the Word of God. Having examined the evidence, and reviewed case law, you render a verdict. You say, "Cancer, go in the name of Jesus Christ!" or you say in effect, "Legally I cannot command this disease to go until you do X, or Y, or Z according to the instructions in case law – the Word of God."

Now you are a judge, but a person, a defendant in your court, has the right to go to the Supreme Judge to overrule your judgment. Hezekiah was sick and Isaiah as a judge, having examined the evidence, referred to case law, and finally the leading of the Spirit, ruled that he would die, but Hezekiah appealed the ruling to the Supreme Judge.

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, 3 and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

¹⁷ Bullinger, A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the Greek and English New Testament

¹⁸ Bullinger.

4 And the word of the Lord came to Isaiah, saying, 5 "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. Isa 38:1-c NKJV

When it comes to being God's judge in the world, in any circumstance not just healing, you must be serious about doing the work of a judge. You must examine all the evidence, compare it against the case law of the Word of God, consider the precedents or previous judgments that have occurred in similar cases – for instance, why did Peter and Isaiah present judgments of death? – and then make your judgment with the Spirit's help or leading. This can take ten seconds, ten hours or ten days.

Then the authority and power you have been given in Ephesians One will be released! Are you ready for Chapter Two of Ephesians?

In Romans Three you saw yourself as a defendant, falling on the mercy of the court. This is where the Cross intervened! Now in Ephesians at the Throne of God you are no longer a defendant, but a judge sitting on a seat or throne of judgment. We are moving from a Cross paradigm, as necessary and wonderful as that was, to a Throne paradigm, because that is who we are and will be for all eternity.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph 2:1-3 NKJV

Here Paul encapsulates Romans Chapters 1:1 through 3:20 in three verses. But we go from the gutter to the Throne in verses four through ten. We will go through this section with some brief commentary.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), c and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, S not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:4-10

NKJV

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us

The eternal, overwhelming intrinsic value of every life from conception to the grave and beyond is magnified here by the dramatically beautiful phraseology – rich in mercy, great love – used in the

text. Receive that reality into your heart for yourself – I AM GREATLY LOVED BY ABBA MY FATHER, HIS MERCY TO ME IS RICH! – and you will never have an unanswered prayer again.

even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved (Grk. SOZO),

When Jesus died, we died with Him. When He was made alive, resurrected, we were made alive, resurrected with Him, by the undeserved, unmerited favor of God. SOZO is to be completely whole, spirit, soul, body, life and circumstances.

and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

We are ascended and seated at the right hand of God with Him. This is the Throne! This is the position from which we rule and judge in the world. This will not change. This is where we are NOW and where we will be permanently! This is where, as we say, the rubber meets the road. You can be called to be a judge and still have a defendant, as in Romans Three, paradigm or mindset. We must journey from Romans Three to Ephesians Two, from the Cross to the Throne. If you can make that journey, then the power and authority of the prayer in Ephesians One will be released in you. Do you see?

that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Our seat at the Throne is not only our ruling place, but also our place from which we will be instructed and shown the riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. We will be in a school of the Spirit forever, which to my heart makes me speculate that He will test our understanding periodically, which means new adventures, and a whole lot of fun! In our Bible college our faith was specifically and intentionally tested from time to time by requiring us to travel around the country with no money. Go to New Orleans and back from Kansas? Hit the road, Jack, and beback in a week!

For by grace (Grk. CHARIS) you have been saved (Grk. SOZO) through faith (Grk. PISTIS), and that not of yourselves; it is the gift (Grk. DORON) of God, S not of works, lest anyone should boast

The key here is the word DORON – meaning a sacrificial gift¹⁹ – Christ's suffering and death and resurrection, and all that came in preparation for it was a sacrificial gift to you. I believe in that DORON gift package we got CHARIS, SOZO and PISTIS. This would conclude that faith for salvation is a gift. You see this all the time in witnessing, but you may not be aware of the spiritual transaction occurring right in front of you. You don't reason or convince people to get born again. You share the truth and you watch them receive a gift right before your eyes! I've argued the Gospel with people for hours to no avail but then I find that certain someone, the right someone at the right time, and a miracle happens. They receive a DORON gift that includes faith to believe that a man they never met before did something never done before for them in love to save their lives. Astonishing! And of course, there are no works involved so no one can boast about a completely unmerited gift...

For we are His workmanship (Grk. POIEMA), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them

The word POIEMA means masterpiece²⁰. The Church is God's masterpiece, His MAGNUM OPUS²¹! Of all of His works, all of His creation the best of the best is His Church, drawn out from both Jew

¹⁹ Strongs Exhaustive Concordance, #1435

²⁰ Englishmans Greek New Testament Concordance.

²¹ American Heritage Dictionary, definition: the greatest single work of an artist, writer or composer; Anartistic masterpiece.

and Gentile with Christ as the Head, who fills each member with all of His fulness. Oh, my heart cries in wonder at it all! EPHESIANS THREE is going to open up our understanding of that masterpiece and who He is for us and in us and who we are in Him.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:17 NKJV

In our garden in back of our house we have a fountain that is close to sixty feet long that symbolizes the journey from the world through the Cross to the Throne of God. The throne is set up high and water flows out of it and under the cross out into the world. The invitation to the Throne comes from Heaven to all the world. Come! The lower pool represents the world and you have to cross a bridge made of cedar representing the Cross to get to the Throne. The guy who built the bridge out of cedar had a Bezalel anointing²² and did an amazing job. The other guy who built the fountain with his team was a believer as well. So, I have a symbolic representation of Romans through Ephesians right outside of my office, to remind me every day of the DORON of God, and the POIEMA that resulted from it. JESUS!

Oh, dear one, may your heart be touched with the grace and love of God to allow you and I to be His POIEMA, and to be His judges and representatives out in the world. May we be found faithful of that calling because we are seated at the Throne of God!

[This is a snip from a talk I was going to do but never got to recording about the throne, the cross and the symbolism of the cornerstone (cube). Thought it relevant to share.

The CUBE the CROSS the THRONE

A foundation stone or corner stone is built in the shape of a cube, all sides perfectly equal, it determines the position and alignment for the rest of the structure. 1 Peter 2:7 says, talking about Jesus, "the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone."

Issiah 28:16 says, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." And Ephesians 2:20- 22, says, "Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into adwelling of God in the Spirit." And there are other references in Jeremiah,

Issiah, Job and Psalms. So knowing that Jesus is referred to as the foundation stone, or cube, multiple times, let's look at what a cube actually is.

A cube is a 3-dimensional square, and so carries the same meaning as the square and since a square carries the meaning of the number 4, a cube carries that same meaning as well. The square and the number 4 represent the manifest earth, harmony, unity, and stability. The cube being a 3 dimensional square represents the same but also embodies and represents truth, as a cube is unmoving and the same from whatever angle you look at it from. Four numerically represents the earth because of the four directions of the earth, north, east, south and west. Four seasons, winter, spring, summer, fall. The four elements that compose all life on earth,

²² Ex. 31:2-5

fire, air, water and earth. The four phases of the moon, New, Half-moon waxing, Full moon, Half-moon Waning.

The cube being a 3-dimensional version of the square takes the North, East, South and West, or forward, right, back and left, which is length and width, and adds the dimension of height to it, which is depth. This is the current reality we live in, our universe. This now gives us a six- sided shape. With this depth, now a six-sided shape, a static center is created, from which all directions originate and are held

together in balance. This becomes the 7th element. The point at the center of the 6-sided cube. And yes, you guessed it, this is the reason why the number 7 is considered Holy and complete.

A hexagon has 6 points. If we look at the Seal of Solomon, also called the Star of David, which is a hexagram, and place it inside of a hexagon, we create converging lines that bring the potential elements together and draw our attention to the center, if we were then to connect the lines given by the star of David, using the center as our base, this 2-dimensional hexagon becomes a 3 dimensional cube. The center being the point through which this becomes possible. And so the cube is the perfect visual representation of our 3-dimensional elemental universe, which is held together by 6 sides, these 6 sides are balanced with the 7th element, which is the static point at its center. And yes you guessed it, this is why Genesis one is laid out in 7 stages of creation, the 6th being the day man was created, the 7th being the day God rested as the 7th point is the static unchanging center and so unmoving.

And because of this it's simple logic to conclude that there is a 7th dimension within which this 3-dimensional realm, the cube, is held together. Since time and space can only exist in the realm of three dimensions, we can also conclude that the 7th dimension, which is the 7th point in the cube, is beyond time and space and so eternal. This is what we refer to as the spiritual realm or Kingdom of Heaven. It's the realm of divine ideals which through the synthesis of their elemental forms crystalize into the material realm. Once again this is why the number 7 is so prevalent all throughout the bible and what the number 7 represents in Revelation, it is the cleansing and regenerating of each of these dimensions. By understanding all this the biblical significance of the numbers 5, 10 and 12 are revealed to us also. We have the 6 directions of the 3-dimensional universe, forward, back, left, right, up, down. A 4th dimension is then created which is spacetime, since time is the measurement of the speed of objects in particular positions to each other within 3-dimensional space, this is the same as beginning and end, or past and future. Within all this is being, spirit, or our I Am presence, through which it is all experienced. These 5 dimensions each have a counter point as we've discussed. 3 dimensions has 6 dynamic movements, forward, back, left, right, up, down. The 4 dimensions, spacetime, past and future, beginning and end. And the fifth dimension has spirit or moral or good and evil.

Now, if we open the cube up it unfolds to create a cross of which the bottom square of the cube becomes the central point. It is this cross that Jesus Christ was crucified on. Just as the cube opens up to reveal the cross, the body of Jesus was opened up on the cross, and as his side was pierced blood and water flowed out. If we look at the shape of the cross, it is now the 4 cardinal points, north, east, south and west, but with the 5th element being added, which is the body of Jesus. Just as the 7th static center of the 6-sided cube, represents the higher dimensions of spirit, which keeps our 3-dimensional universe in harmony and balance, the 5th element, the body of Jesus, is the same representation but just in a microcosmic way. These 5 elements also signify our 5 senses which are the vessels of our desire nature which through submission to Gods will, have now become unified and synthesized into the will of the whole, to the foundation stone of the macrocosmic cube, which is the center of the heart on the microcosmic cross. In conjunction with the 5 points of the human body, the head, left and right arms, and our left and right legs, the 5 wounds of Christ solidifies this meaning even further. The nail through is right hand, a nail through his left hand, a nail through his right and left feet and the piercing of the spear in his side of which blood and water flowed out of onto the earth.

Now that the hidden center of the cube, the totality of this 3-dimensional universe, has been unfolded and revealed to be the spirit of God in man, personified and embodied by Jesus Christ on the cross, the

cube now needs to be closed back up, or the tomb needs to be closed, in order to restore balance. But now that we have seen inside the mystery of mysteries, the stone which seals the tomb, which keeps hidden the light that shines in the darkness, can be removed at will by the hands of Christ. And so just as the cube, the embodiment of this 3- dimensional universe was opened up to reveal the cross and Christ crucified on it at its center which is the foundation of the cube, once folded back up, the cube now becomes the throne on which Jesus and those who follow him in the regeneration will sit, beyond the limitations of time and space at the 7 th centralpoint of all creation.

Because with Christ we have undergone a psychological death, the impermanence of the world no longer holds any sway over us. We're now operating and living from our Christ nature and so sit eternally upon the living principles of God. Just as the base of a throne is a cube which a back rises out of, those who sit upon it are still amidst and wavering, ever-changing cycles of materiality. If we look at King Solomons throne in 1 Kings, it tells us that his throne was sat at the top of, yep, you guessed it, 6 stairs, his throne then representing the central, unwavering 7th stage. Each 1 of the 6 steps is a stage, or process we must go through to reach this central unchanging throne. The legs of the throne rising up out of the earth represent the rise from chaos or primordial consciousness toward heaven, divine consciousness, upon which the deified sit eternally anchored in the true reality of being. Those who have inwardly experienced the sacrifice of Jesus will sit upon the cube of 3-dimensional space and time and not know death, as death only comes to those who are possessed of the self. But to those who have synthesized into the ONE, all forms of life and death rise and fall, all stages and states of being come and go, but the ONE true SELF, Christ, remains.

PART FOUR - THE CHURCH IN THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

The purpose of doctrine is to set a true foundation to what we believe and apply. It also corrects wrong doctrine, wrong ways of believing that produce wrong or bad fruit. The test of any doctrine is the fruit it produces. By their fruit you shall know them! If what I'm doing is not producing results, then I need to look at what I believe. This is my attempt to outline right doctrine for us as individuals in the Church and for us corporately, but it's only an outline, and it could need corrections. If there is any insight you want to share with me considering the subject, please write to me with your thoughts.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph 3:20 NKJV

We began this study asking the question, "Is this all there is?" I'm a blood bought child of God, forgiven of my sins, seeking to be a good person and waiting for heaven. Is that all there is? We started our study in Romans Three, where we were found guilty of our sins, indeed, we were born that way, fell on the mercy of the court, and were acquitted of our crimes by the substitutionary act of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – the Cross. Romans Three was where we began a journey in our renewed minds from the Cross to the Throne of God.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... Rom 5:1 NKJV

The next stop on our journey was Romans Five, where we found we had peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; that one man's catastrophic sin had condemned the world but one Man's redemptive sacrifice, the second Adam, had undone the work of the first for all men, giving us a peace treaty with ABBA. Then in Romans Eight we found out that there was no condemnation – no reversal of the Court's

verdict that we were made the righteousness of God through Christ – and that NOTHING could separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord. Pretty good, huh? But that was only the beginning, the necessary foundation of what was to come.

...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, Eph 1:4 NKJV

In Ephesians One we discovered that we were members of His body with Him as the head, and that all the authority Adam had lost was restored to us as His EKKLESIA. What we have been given is greater than Adam's authority, because his was conditioned on whether he walked righteously, while ours is unconditioned because it's built on the finished work of Christ. You can't lose it or sin it away because you can't change what He accomplished, but you can lose its effectiveness if you don't walk in faith.

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? 1 Cor c:1-4 NKJV

Finally, in Ephesians 2:1-10, we saw that we were raised and seated together with Christ at the right hand of ABBA our Father, seated on thrones of judgment in the court of God, presiding over affairs on the earth. We are no longer defendants in God's court, as in Romans Three, but judges in trial courts under the Supreme Court of the Godhead. I recently got to sit in a municipal court and watch a judge adjudicate matters with defendants, public defenders, defense lawyers and prosecutors.

As I watched her, I said, "That's us!" Our thrones, while seated at His right hand, are subservient to His throne, just as trial courts are under appellate courts and a supreme court. Subservient – our verdicts are reviewable by the Supreme Court – but are nonetheless, very powerful!

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. Ps 24:1 NKJV

How do we render judgment? Let's say God's enemies decide to build a mosque down the street in your town. You ask the Lord, "How do I render judgment in this case?" Case law – the Word of God – says the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. The Lord's enemies do not have the right to build an altar to a false god in your town, no matter if they own the land or have building permits.

The land ultimately is owned by God and you are His representative. So, as you are led by the Spirit, having reviewed the evidence and case law, you decree – not rudely, or even in front of anyone, but before the Lord – 'this mosque will not be built.' You hold that decree in your heart, perhaps even decreeing it daily, like Elijah held the decree that it would not rain or even have dew in Israel until he said so, until the Lord releases the final verdict, the elimination of the mosque. Simple, elegant, powerful!

What we want to study right now is what I call the Church in the Throne Room of God – Ephesians 2:10 – 3:21. Each of these subjects could be a book, but I'm just trying to give you the glimpse that I see of the greatness of His Church, His sons and daughters, as we dwell in His presence in the Throne Room, and how we can aspire to walk with Him. We will briefly look at five great truths:

THE POIEMA OF GOD – OUR ACCESS TO ABBA – THE CHURCH AS THE NAOS – THE GREAT

MUSTERION OF THE CHURCH – FILLED WITH ALL THE PLEROMA OF GOD

THE POIEMA OF GOD

For we are His workmanship (Grk. POIEMA), created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10 NKJV

For we are His workmanship (Grk. POIEMA – masterpiece) – The Church is the masterpiece of God. We were called from before the foundation of the world. Suppose Adam had never sinned! We still would have been born. We still would have become the Church, the EKKLESIA of God, the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, His sons and daughters. ABBA would have had His family! At some point Adam’s conditional authority would have become permanent, and we would have become the Church. Even though Satan intervened with Adam’s catastrophic sin, the purpose of God from time immemorable would have been fulfilled because we were called from before the foundation of the world. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan. Prov 2S:2 NKJV

created in Christ Jesus for good works – When you study the phrase GOOD WORKS you will find in someplaces it used as a generalized statement but in others, it lays out a list of specific actions. I believe here it refers to our actions as judges, presiding over the affairs of the earth. When we preside as led by Him we protect and bless everyone, saved or unsaved. Paul protected the lives of all in the wheat ship, not just the believers²³. Our decrees carry weight as we believe God has spoken through us in that situation. We must shift our thinking from being defendants in God’s court – Romans Three – to being judges in God’s court – Ephesians Two. Do you see it?

²³ Acts 27:21-24

...which God prepared (Grk. PROETOIMAZO) beforehand that we should walk in them.

PROETOIMAZO is only used twice in the Greek NT, and it means to prepare or ordain, and it speaks to the foreknowledge of God²⁴. God has prepared the greatest life possible for us but we must choose to rise up and walk in that calling. You don’t live at the level you desire; you live at the level you accept. The Lord never intended for us to live in mediocrity or debasement or defeat, but we must choose to strive for that high calling and never compromise our integrity at each level of growth. This is the POIEMA, the masterpiece of God, the Church.

OUR ACCESS TO ABBA OUR FATHER

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... Eph 2:13-15 NKJV

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Eph 2:18 NKJV

The first great reality that we see is that we have access to God. Under the OT, access was limited to one guy, the high priest, entering once a year into the Holy of Holies²⁵. But our Lord’s redemptive work has broken though all the barriers, and because we have been made the righteousness of God in Him, we are lifted up as sons and daughters of His and we have access to a holy God, ABBA our Father. This is why we have easy access to revelation. We can walk with the Lord like Adam and Eve did before the Fall, enjoying sweet fellowship and dealing victoriously with every situation. As we rise up in our souls to see the reality of what He has done in our spirits, then access to every solution becomes available to us.

THE CHURCH AS THE NAOS – THE TEMPLE

“Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” Zech c:12-13 NKJV

1S Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,

Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Eph 2:15-22 NKJV

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” John 14:23 NKJV

It’s been said that the OT is the NT concealed and the NT is the OT revealed. (This is a very true statement!) The Ark, the Tabernacle and the Temple in the OT were all foreshadows of what would come through the Church and in the future with the reign of the Lord on the earth especially in the new heavens and new earth. As Israel carried the ark of the covenant and the presence of God on

²⁴ Englishmans Greek Concordnce

²⁵ Heb. 9:7

its journeys we carry the presence of God in our spirits through the Holy Spirit. God dwells in us! No wonder the angels desired to look into these things²⁶ as we shall see when we talk about the Church as the MUSTERION of God. Christ is in you – Col. 1:27 – the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit dwell in you!

Please, dear reader, take time, slow down and meditate on these truths as I have tried so poorly to present them to you. The Church in the Throne Room is so much greater than what I can possibly share, but the Lord can use these words to communicate truth to our hearts that changes, transforms and lifts us up to new heights of faith and glory. Next we will continue with the Church as the mystery of God and the fullness of God in you, expanding our understanding of the Church in the Throne Room of God. You and I are judges in the courts of God. May we be found faithful to bring the blessings of the kingdom to all the earth, and all the glory to our ABBA.

PART FIVE - THE CHURCH AS THE MUSTERION – THE MYSTERY OF GOD

...I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Isac:1 NKJV

We are on a journey in the renewing of our minds from the Cross to the Throne. It is at the Throne of God that we find the true fulfillment of who we are and what we are called to do. This is a true journey because there must be a change of the paradigms of our minds from a ‘defendant in the court of God’ mindset in Romans Three to a ‘judge in the court of God’ paradigm in Ephesians Two and Three. This in no way elevates us or makes us equal with God, but it empowers us as His true representatives to carry His authority into the world and adjudicate the affairs of the world in a Kingdom manner.

Now the Church in the Throne Room of God is what we find in Ephesians 2:10 – 3:21. I think of the Throne Room as a whole complex of buildings like a university campus, with God’s Throne at the center, soon to be set on the New Jerusalem earthly campus. In that complex, in Ephesians 2:10-3:21, we find five great subjects: the Church as the masterpiece of God – the POIEMA, our access to ABBA our Father, the Church as the NAOS – the Temple of God, the Church as the great mystery – the MUSTERION, and finally the fullness of God – the PLEROMA. We’ve looked at the Church as the POIEMA, our access to ABBA, and the Church as the NAOS – the Temple of God. Now we look at the Church as the mystery of God.

The first two usages of the word MUSTERION in the Greek NT are critical to our understanding of the Church as the mystery of God in His throne room. The first two usages are almost the same, making the

statement emphatic. Here's the first usage...

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries (Grk. MUSTERION) of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has (the wisdom to use that which is given him), to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have (the wisdom to use that which is given him), even what he has will be taken away from him. Matt 13:11-12 NKJV

²⁶ 1Pe 1:12

In verse twelve there is an ellipsis²⁷, a figure of speech, used twice – a statement clearly implied but omitted in the text – that makes the whole statement understandable. The disciples had asked regarding why Jesus spoke in parables to others, especially to the religious leaders, but plainly to them. The answer was stunning, and important to our understanding of Ephesians Three. The disciples had the wisdom to use that which was given them, but the religious leaders did not.

Thus, the disciples were given more, including the advancement of the gospel to the ends of the earth; but the religious leaders suffered the loss of all, including their temple in 70 AD. Wow...

How profound is this? If we in our generation do not have the wisdom to use the great mystery of God as He reveals it in Ephesians Three, then we will lose it, have it taken away from us, and the

Lord will wait to see what the next generation does with it when He gives it to them. My friend Henry Hon has some great light on the unity of the One Body²⁸. He says that unity in practical application in the One Body is based on love, respect and listening to one another even in our differences, our different factions, and then voting together, to become as one voice; that unity is not based on conformity of doctrine, which is absurd if you think about it, as I was taught. If we don't walk out the revelation of the great mystery of the One Body in great wisdom and love, then we will have it taken from us, and we will be at a loss. With that warning, and the encouragement that if we do it right, we will receive more, let's investigate the mystery of God in Ephesians Three!

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles — 2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles – What reason? The Church as the Temple – NAOS – of God, and the Masterpiece – POIEMA – of God. The mystery of God is going to explain how we as the Body are the masterpiece and the temple of God, with Christ in us, the Godhead in us, and the supernatural, spiritual worship of God being in the great reality of speaking in tongues in love, in praise, in thanks and worship. Right now, in your physical body the Godhead dwells in your spirit and the Holy Spirit leads your temple in worship as you pray in tongues in love. Do you see how big that is? Let's keep reading!

... by which, when you read, you may understand (Grk NOEO) my knowledge (Grk. SUNESIS) in the mystery (Grk. MUSTERION) of Christ)...

There is a supernatural impartation of understanding when you read the Word. In our Holy Spirit Encounters, we train God's people to read the Word and pray in tongues at the same time, which is

incredibly powerful and efficient. If you ever read a chapter in the Word and not get anything out of
²⁷ Bullinger, Figures Of Speech In The Bible.

²⁸ www.onebody.life

it, say, “ABBA, I missed my supernatural impartation! Can we read that again, and You teach it to me? Thank You!” and read it again.

NOEO comes from the word NOUS²⁹, meaning the whole mind, spirit, soul and body. There are things that you know in your spirit that you don’t comprehend or know in your soul. This understanding of the throne room of God will start out in your spirit and grow up in your soul as you meditate on it, apply it and walk it out. It’s a journey!

SUNESIS is the coming together of disparate thoughts like small rivers or streams flowing into a great river, becoming one³⁰. SUNESIS is a work of the Spirit in you. It’s that ‘Ah-ha’ moment when the light comes on, when you KNOW what you previously only surmised, when everything comes together like the ten fingers of your two hands folding together as one. SUNESIS is a wonderful experience!

MUSTERION³¹ is the mystery of Christ.

c that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

The Gentiles were truly wicked people. One example – homosexuality and pederasty were fully accepted and normalized in almost all Gentile cultures³². The Jews under the Torah made huge cultural changes when they said that man was for woman, and woman for man in a monogamous relationship, and that the foundation of culture was the family. The Jewish and Christian understanding from the Bible civilized the world, freed women and young boys from their cultural shackles, and brought happiness, hope and joy into the world.

I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Gen 12:3 NKJV

It was known throughout the OT that the Gentiles would be blessed, but it was not known that they could become joint heirs with the Jewish believers in Christ, joint partakers of the unsearchable riches of Christ, and that what God was doing for one nation, Israel, He would now do for the whole world. This was a mystery, kept secret because had Satan known it, he never would have crucified the Lord of glory.

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, & which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1 Cor 2:7-8 NKJV

Satan truly screwed up! Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, what the Lord had done for Israel for over a thousand years He would now do for the whole world. With this understanding, and the understanding that each of us in the Temple – the NAOS of God – would be individual ark of the covenant bearers, carrying the presence of God in our spirits, Christ in us, ABBA and YESHUA

²⁹ Bullinger.

³⁰ Bullinger.

³¹ Bullinger

³² Prager, Whistleblower, August 2023, “Why Judaism Rejected Homosexuality”

through the RUACH KODESH in our spirits, that we would be unstoppable, the Church would bring the Kingdom of God wherever we went. And we do!

THE PURPOSE OF THE MYSTERY

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. 13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. Eph 3:1-13 NKJV

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given – This principle never changes, whether its Moses as the meekest man on earth³³, or Paul as the least of all the saints. The meek ones, filled with strength, receive the blessings. Those blessings become a test in themselves to remain meek. Paul was not the titular leader of the first century church; perhaps James was. He never got the recognition in his lifetime – in fact whole churches that he planted rejected him - 2 Tim.1:15 – that he enjoys now. But Paul in his humility got to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ and make all see what the fellowship of the mystery is. What an honor! So, I say to all my ambitious young ministers, embrace the journey to meekness! The fruit that will come of it may just make your life legendary, like Moses and Paul.

to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord – This is one of those statements that is so humbling that we can hardly speak about it. To think that ABBA was using us, the Church, as an object lesson to teach all the angels and demons and satan himself under His creation that He is sovereign God, and that His desire will be done regardless of the resistance of all; that ABBA would accomplish His eternal purpose in us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Dear one, let your heart be broken with the grace of God that He would so love you that He would draw you into His family, and make you His prince or princess, His judge on throne over the affairs of men!

...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness (Grk. PLEROMA) of God. Eph 3:15 NKJV

Next we will finish this journey and deal with the PLEROMA of God.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:2 NKJV

I know the doubts you may feel, but that is simply a Romans Three mindset. You are what God says you are. You have what He says you have. Don't accept less than God's best for your life. Your strength becomes strength to those around you which is the essence of leadership. We need the Church to lead the world like never before in this day and time. We need Throne Room level

³³ Num 12:3

businessmen, family heads, teachers, entertainers, social media influencers, and politicians; we need Throne Room level young, old and middle-aged believers in every category of life to bring Kingdom decisions and blessings into the world, and to the billions who have no clue but depend on us regardless of what they think. And we depend on Him, and that is a good place to be, don't you think?

PART SIX - THE FULLNESS OF GOD

...that you may be filled with all the fullness (Grk. PLEROMA) of God Eph 3:15 NKJV

We are ready in our study of the journey from the Cross to the Throne, to approach the great second prayer in Ephesians, in Ephesians Three. As I stated previously, Paul is the writer of this prayer but the Holy Spirit is the Author of it, making it in effect His prayer for us. Just as you express your desires in prayer, this prayer here, and the prayers throughout the Church Epistles, express the Author's heart and desires for us. Indeed, it is God's prayer for you.

Ephesians 2:10-3:21 describes what I believe is the Church's position at the Throne of God. Like the different buildings on a university campus, the different aspects of the Church expressed here surround the Throne and give glory to Him who is seated there. We've identified five major themes of the Church in this section of the Word and we are ready to consider the fifth and final theme: the fullness – the PLEROMA – of God.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father (In Hebrew its ABBA) of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family (Grk. PATRIA) in heaven and earth is named (Grk. ONOMAZO), 1c that He would grant you, according to (Grk. KATA) the riches of His glory, to be strengthened (Grk. KRATAIOO) with might (Grk. DUNAMIS) through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell (Grk. KATOIKEO) in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted (Grk. RHIZOO) and grounded (Grk. THEMELIOO) in love, 18 may be able (Grk. EXISCHUO) to comprehend (Grk. KATALAMBANO) with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 1S to know (Grk. GINOSKO) the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Grk. GNOSIS); that you may be filled (Grk. PLEROO) with all the fullness (Grk. PLEROMA) of God. Eph 3:14-1S NKJV

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father – ABBA in Hebrew -of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family (Grk. PATRIA³⁴) in heaven and earth is named (Grk. ONOMAZO)...

ABBA's whole PATRIA is certainly a lot bigger than I was ever taught, which is a reminder that what you learn AFTER you think you know it all is what really counts! ABBA's PATRIA would include OT saints, starting with ACE, right up through the patriarchs, Israel and OT Gentile saints, all the ranks of angels and NT saints both deceased and alive. ONOMAZO indicates that all were named or placed in the PATRIA of God.

...that He would grant you, according to (Grk. KATA) the riches of His glory, to be strengthened (Grk. KRATAIOO) with might (Grk. DUNAMIS) through His Spirit in the inner man...

³⁴ All Greek words through this section are referenced through Strongs, Englishmans or Bullinger's concordances.

We are going to see in this great prayer the relationship between love and power; that faith, and the power faith releases, is energized effectively, according to Galatians 5:6, by the love of God we have in our hearts. Love inspires you to make the sacrifices necessary to release the great power of God in your life. One of the great healings I've ever seen in my ministry was of a boy afflicted by polio whose leg faced backwards. The day before I had prayed from 630am to 330pm, stopping briefly for breakfast and lunch, when God spoke and said, "You are ready," after which I quit because I was ready³⁵. It is said that Oral Roberts would pray in tongues for five hours each night before he preached in his crusades. Love requires sacrifice!

KATA sets a standard by which the power of God can be compared, measured or judged. The standard is His glorious riches. Wow! Meditate on that for a minute, and realize that everywhere you go, you can bring fabulous blessings!

KRATAIOO means power with an impact. We get our English word CRATER, the result of an impact by a solid object of great density and high-speed striking a landscape. If you want to make an impact

wherever you go, the way to effectively do that is with the power of God. For example, prophetic words spoken in love go straight to people's hearts and create faith. Such words will be remembered and treasured when thousands of others are forgotten and ignored!

DUNAMIS is inherent spiritual power, the same power that created the heavens and the earth. You and I have that power, but crossing the key landmarks, almost step by step, in Romans and Ephesians is necessary for us to allow ourselves to release that power. Have you ever noticed how the children of believers pray with power because they haven't been taught yet that God DOESN'T answer prayer? Those pure hearts just know that God will answer. The landmarks we've talked about on the road to the Throne seek to get us back to that purehearted level!

...through His Spirit in the inner man...

How is this accomplished? If this were automatically done at the new birth, like so many of our rights in Christ, then why would it need to be prayed for? This is one of the greatest arguments for every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues edifies the believer and builds up their faith. It is how we are strengthened with might by His spirit in the inner man. Let me say that the Church Epistles were given by the Holy Spirit with the expectation and assumption that every believer would speak in tongues.

Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Gen 28:12 NKJV

I never used to value prayer. I did it as a Christian discipline, but without real conviction. Now I understand it as a time of worship, of empowering, of giving and receiving, of being brought together with Heaven and earth to produce Kingdom power in the world. It's like the heroes in the fantasy/sci-fi stories that are so popular now. They go out and fight, but they must return to their power source, or else they die. Very much like us! Our inner man must be renewed through prayer and worship daily, or else we fall from lack of power.

³⁵ Phil 2:13.

...that Christ may dwell (Grk. KATOIKEO) in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted (Grk. RHIZOO) and grounded (Grk. THEMELIOO) in love...

KATOIKEO means to reside or bed down, not merely to visit, to make our hearts His home. Again, we see the standards, the demands of the Gospel, are the highest in all the earth. Jesus said that if you love wife or husband or son or daughter more than Me, you are not worthy of Me. The first command is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. The highest standards! Do you see why this is a journey?

RHIZOO and THEMELIOO. Rooted and grounded. Jesus is the root of David and He is the rock upon which our lives are grounded. We are rooted and grounded in Him who is love. By the way, the rooting and grounding begins in Romans with those landmarks I previously pointed out.

...may be able (Grk. EXISCHUO) to comprehend (Grk. KATALAMBANO) with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — IS to know (Grk. GINOSKO) the love of Christ which passes knowledge...

God makes us smarter. EXISCHUO means 'to make entirely competent'. Perhaps you were always told that you were an idiot, which is a decree from hell. Perhaps you always had low marks in school. I tell you, my sister or brother, apply yourself daily by reading the Word out loud and praying in tongues and God will make your physical brain cells sharper, more alive and you will get smarter. He will make you entirely competent!

KATALAMBANO means to take, seize or possess eagerly. To comprehend is to grasp with eager hands the full understanding of the love of God.

GINOSKO means to know by experience, not merely an intellectual knowing, but a ‘gut level’ experience. A gut level experience of knowing the love of Christ – this is the answer to the question ‘Is this all there is?’ This understanding, this perception of the love of Christ will lift you into whole new realms of faith, because love energizes faith. All that Jesus did, all that He walked in, all the victory that overflowed and touched the world is now open to His sons and daughters to walk in who know by experience the love of Christ. The Lord God will meet you, and individually instruct you, and carefully train you, and show you the intimate details of the love of Christ in your soul so that you are transformed into His image.

...that you may be filled (Grk. PLEROO) with all the fullness (Grk PLEROMA) of God. Eph 3:14-15 NKJV

PLEROO is to be filled full. The fullness of God is the image of Christ. Jesus said, He who has seen Me has seen ABBA! This is the end of the journey in our renewed minds to the Throne of God. We are so secure in Him that we can walk in great love, because great love requires great strength, all the time. Great love produces great faith which yields great power. All the fruit of the Spirit, all the gifts of the Spirit, all the RHEMA words and an increasing understanding of the LOGOS of God are all in the fullness of God. Two things can be happening here even simultaneously: being continuously filled to fullness and increasing in capacity. We can be filled full yet growing more and more!

And the Child grew (Grk. AUXANO increased) and became strong in spirit, filled (Grk. PLEROO) with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Luke 2:40 NKJV

To get from one place to another, especially a place you have never been, requires four things: (1) you must know where you are, (2) you must know where you want to go, (3) you must have a map showing a route with its intermediate landmarks or objectives, and (4) you must have a guide. The map shows you the objectives and the guide keeps you from going off course. Your guide will reroute you as necessary! If you are a born again one, your starting place is the Cross. Your goal, where you want to go, is the Throne. Your map is the word of God, specifically Romans and Ephesians, and your guide is the Holy Spirit.

Find someone to take the journey with you. A threefold cord is not quickly broken! Identify each objective in Romans and Ephesians, starting in Romans Three, and don’t leave the objective until you have completely embraced its truth and are practicing it comfortably. Be accountable to your partner and to the Lord. This is a marathon, not a sprint. I’ve run a couple of marathons, and it requires patience, pacing and keeping the goal in mind. But you can do it, dear one. You can be a great judge, bringing Kingdom authority, favor and blessing to all the world around you to His glory. Amen? Love you!

ΠΟΤΑΜΙ

POTAMI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



"Your Dream, Your Greatness"

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PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER AS PART OF LIGHT BEARER INTRODUCTION

In a world often overshadowed by darkness, the role of light bearers—individuals who reflect the character of God—becomes crucial. Effective light bearers embody traits that mirror Christ's nature and are essential for making a meaningful impact through faith. As described in a thoughtful reflection, “A Light Bearer is a wise, intuitive, inspired, creative individual who lovingly lights the way for others. A light bearer is passionate about assisting people in breaking free from bondage to attain ultimate freedom, whether these chains are self-imposed, generational, or inflicted by others. Light Bearers are courageous leaders for not only the rising generation but also for lifelong learners of any age” (Light the World, 2018). To fulfill this role, qualities such as compassion, integrity, humility, faithfulness, and wisdom are indispensable. These attributes not only define one’s character but also enhance the ability to bring light into the world. Jesus’s ministry exemplified these traits. When He began His public ministry, He read from Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue, declaring His mission: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19). This passage underscores the mission of light bearers to heal, liberate, and guide others with divine purpose.

Compassion: Showing Empathy and Kindness

Compassion, as a core trait of a light bearer, reflects empathy and kindness, deeply rooted in the character of God. Psalm 103:13 illustrates God's compassion as akin to a father's care for his children, setting a profound standard for human behavior. Jesus exemplified this through His ministry, healing the sick and feeding the multitude (Matthew 14:14; John 6:5-14), and reaching out to marginalized individuals, such as tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:10-13) and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). Compassion involves not only grand gestures but also small, everyday acts of kindness, such as providing emotional support, preparing meals, and advocating for justice. The early Christians' practice of sharing possessions and meeting each other's needs (Acts 2:44-45) further demonstrates the practical outworking of compassion. By embodying these principles, individuals manifest divine love and light, offering tangible support and comfort in a world often marked by darkness and suffering.

Integrity: Living with Strong Moral Principles

Integrity is marked by authenticity and honesty, where our words and actions align consistently in all areas of life. David, described as a man after God's own heart in Psalm 41:12, exemplified this trait through his deep commitment to God and his earnest repentance when he faltered. Integrity involves being transparent, accountable, and dependable. For example, in Proverbs 10:9, we are advised that "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." This illustrates that integrity brings stability and security, while dishonesty leads to exposure and instability. Another biblical example is Joseph, who, despite being tempted by Potiphar's wife, remained steadfast in his moral principles and fled from temptation (Genesis 39:7-12). Similarly, Daniel's unwavering commitment to his beliefs, even in the face of the lion's den, highlights his strong moral resolve (Daniel 6:10-23). Living with integrity also includes acknowledging our weaknesses, welcoming constructive criticism, and learning from mistakes. By embodying integrity, we uphold strong moral principles and serve as light bearers in a world that often lacks moral clarity. This mirrors the themes found in Doerr (2014), which explores the impacts of moral choices and personal integrity in the context of war and human suffering.

Humility: Recognizing One's Limitations

Humility involves recognizing our limitations and dependence on God while remaining open to learning from others. Jesus's humility is evident in Matthew 18:4, where He humbled Himself and became obedient, highlighting His willingness to submit to God's will. In Philippians 2:3-8, humility is further emphasized through the call to regard others as more significant than oneself, reflecting Jesus's own example of selflessness and obedience. Humility is not merely about self-deprecation but involves a genuine appreciation for our place in God's design and a readiness to grow. It encompasses acknowledging our weaknesses, being receptive to feedback, and valuing the contributions of others. This perspective aligns with Viktor Frankl's exploration of meaning in *Man's Search for Meaning*, where he discusses how facing our limitations and embracing a sense of purpose can lead to profound personal growth and fulfillment (Frankl, 2014). Similarly, Eckhart Tolle's *The Power of Now* underscores the importance of living in the present moment and letting go of the ego, which resonates with the concept of humility by encouraging us to release our attachment to self-importance and embrace a more grounded, authentic existence (Tolle, 2014). By practicing humility—listening more, asking questions, and seeking guidance—we reflect Christ's character and shine as light bearers in a world that often elevates self over service. This involves an ongoing process of personal development and spiritual growth, where humility acts as a catalyst for deeper relationships and a more profound understanding of

our place in the broader tapestry of life.

Faithfulness: Being Reliable and Committed

Faithfulness is characterized by reliability, commitment, and steadfastness in our relationships and responsibilities. Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi and to God, as depicted in Ruth 1:16, exemplifies profound faithfulness. Her unwavering loyalty, even in the face of personal sacrifice, serves as a powerful biblical model of steadfast commitment. Faithfulness involves keeping promises, honoring commitments, and persisting through difficulties, as outlined in Proverbs 3:3-4, which emphasizes the importance of steadfast love and faithfulness in earning favor and a good reputation. This quality is also underscored by Jesus in Luke 16:10, where He states, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much," highlighting the significance of being dependable in even small matters. Demonstrating faithfulness means being dependable, loyal, and dedicated. It involves consistently showing up, following through on commitments, and prioritizing our relationships and responsibilities. By living faithfully, we provide stability and become a beacon of light in a world often characterized by instability and inconsistency. According to Robbins (2017) discusses the importance of reliability and commitment in achieving financial freedom and stability, which mirrors the broader principle of faithfulness in various aspects of life. Additionally, Sandberg & Grant (2017), explores resilience and commitment in the face of adversity, offering insights into how steadfastness can help individuals navigate challenges and find joy by integrating these principles into our daily lives, we reflect the biblical virtues of faithfulness and offer a stabilizing presence in an often unpredictable world.

Wisdom: Seeking and Applying God's Guidance

Wisdom involves viewing life from God's perspective and applying His principles to our decisions and actions. The pursuit of wisdom is exemplified in Solomon's request for discernment in 1 Kings 3:5-14, where Solomon asks God for wisdom to govern His people effectively. God's response highlights the importance of seeking divine guidance and offers a model for integrating wisdom into our lives. Biblical wisdom encompasses consulting mature believers, studying Scripture, and praying for discernment, as advised in James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." This passage underscores that wisdom comes from God and is accessible through prayer and a relationship with Him. Wisdom also involves distinguishing right from wrong and choosing paths that align with God's will. Proverbs 2:6 states, "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding," illustrating that wisdom is a divine gift and requires a commitment to understanding and applying God's truth. In the realm of personal development and leadership, Covey (2013), emphasizes the importance of principled decision-making and proactive behavior, which aligns with the biblical concept of wisdom. Covey's principles encourage individuals to adopt a proactive mindset, seek continuous improvement, and make decisions based on core values. To add more, Brown (2012), focuses on vulnerability and the courage to embrace imperfection, which can be seen as part of the wisdom journey. Brown's exploration of how embracing vulnerability can lead to greater authenticity and connection complements the biblical view of wisdom as it involves applying divine principles in personal and relational contexts. By actively seeking and applying wisdom, individuals can make decisions that reflect God's will and become effective light bearers, offering clarity and guidance in a world often marked by confusion and complexity. This integration of biblical and practical wisdom equips us to navigate life's challenges with discernment and purpose, reflecting both spiritual insight and effective personal leadership.

Optimistic light bearer

An optimistic light bearer is a person who chooses to focus on the positive aspects of life, trusting in God's goodness and sovereignty (Romans 8:28), relying on His strength to overcome obstacles (Philippians 4:13), and rejoicing in His salvation and goodness despite circumstances (Habakkuk 3:18). By doing so, they exude hope and positivity, inspiring others to adopt a similar outlook, and illuminating the world with God's light, providing a beacon of hope in dark times. Their optimism is contagious, encouraging those around them to focus on the good things in life and trust in God's goodness, fostering a culture of encouragement and faith, and fulfilling Jesus' command to "let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16), making a profound impact on their surroundings and bringing joy and inspiration to those around them.

CONCLUSION

In each of these traits—compassion, integrity, humility, faithfulness, and wisdom—we find essential qualities for being effective light bearers in our world. These virtues not only define our character but also empower us to impact others positively and reflect the nature of God. By embodying these attributes, we illuminate the path for others and offer a guiding light in a world often shrouded in darkness. Embracing these qualities enables us to live out our faith meaningfully and to be true representatives of God's love and truth in every aspect of our lives.

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FINAL BOOPROJECT

POTAMI UNIVERSITY

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PATTY HANSEN

TOPIC: ALL FOR CHRIST: SPIRITUAL GIFTS**Introduction: What are Spiritual Gifts?**

Spiritual gifts are spiritual graces and endowments given by the Holy Spirit to an individual or the Church for the purpose of fulfilling the mission of the church for the great commission. We introduce the subject by visiting what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Verse One says that “Now concerning Spiritual Gifts, brethren (brothers and sisters), I do not want you to be ignorant...”. From this scripture, we derive that ignorance or being misinformed on spiritual gifts can be very detrimental to the mission of the church and growth of a particular Christian/ministry.

In a world that is filled with evil, for the Church to counter what is happening in our world, witchcraft, demonic activity, diseases, deaths induced by demonology, among many other demonic vices, the need to know and understand about spiritual gifts and operate in them, cannot be over estimated. John Mbiti has asserted that “...the Christian way of life in Africa is to stay, certainly within the foreseeable future...” (Mbiti, 1986, p. 229) However, African Christianity (and other parts of the world), is still bedevilled with pre-Christian cultures and animistic beliefs that find their way into the church. Indeed, some like Okot p’Bitek, in his intellectual criticism, suggests that “...there is a need to secure the roots of Christianity in a full African context by appropriating and integrating the pre-Christian primal cultural tradition...” (p’Bitek, 1970).

Professor Joseph Galgalo (formerly Vice Chancellor St. Paul’s University, now Bishop of ACK All Saints Church cathedral Nairobi). Notes that “... The adherence to the African beliefs and practices are still strong among African Christians...In Africa, Christianity is for most part a religion of convenience, social identity, a way to be, not necessarily a spiritual home...they return to traditional spiritual practices for comfort in times of crisis...” (Galgalo,2012)

Sequel to such thoughts, African Christianity and indeed the rest of the world, need to be influenced by a proper understanding of spiritual gifts so that Christianity is not swallowed by culture and traditional norms of our societies.

OVERVIEW OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

In the Upper room discourse (John 13-17), Jesus had intimate time with His disciples, during which he discussed the need for them to have a closer walk with the Holy Spirit. He said in Chapter 16:12-14, that “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak of His authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and will tell you things to come. He will glorify me, for he will take of what is mine and declare it to you” (NKJV). We know that the Holy Spirit was released on the day of Pentecost, (Acts 2) and the Apostles started moving in power to do miracles, signs and wonders. They were able to confront the world of evil with the power of God and nothing could withstand them.

Derek Prince notes that “...The church’s assignment is to attack, not to be defensive. The Church should wonder where the church is going to strike him next. Remember, God through the cross, disarmed Satan’s kingdom, rulers and authorities on behalf of us (Eph 6: 15) (Prince, 2010)

When Paul planted the church at Corinth, one of the things he did not want them to be ignorant about, was the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We will now do an overview of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 12: 8-11, we are given a list by Paul, that includes nine gifts of the Spirit. These are:

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Gifts of healing, Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Diverse kinds of Tongues, and Interpretation of Tongues. In Chapter 14 vs 1, we are told that we need to covet Spiritual gifts. We need to desire, earnestly, so that the giver can give us these gifts. The Holy Spirit desires to and gives these gifts in light of a believer's faith and maturity, and the overall profit to the individual and to the church.

The Gifts can be grouped in three subgroupings.

- (a) Speaking gifts: Diverse Kinds of tongues, Interpretation of Tongues and Prophecy
- (b) Revelation gifts: Word of Wisdom, Word of knowledge, Discerning of Spirits
- (c) Power gifts: Faith, Gifts of Healing, Working of Miracles

We are going to look briefly at each of them.

Word of Wisdom: Wisdom is a key gift that opens the operation of all other gifts. Wisdom comes first in the list because it is for unity and commencement. It is a "problem solving anointing" at micro-level and a "genius anointing" at macro-level (Kevin R. Porter, HHS, Verbatim).

This is the gift that helps a leader to navigate from point A to point Z or T where he/she wants to be. Without this gift, leaders lose the way, focus and concentration. Problems, hype and confusion ensue. Jesus is the Wisdom of God and having wisdom means maintaining Jesus as Lord of one's life. Thus, wisdom helps us about how to get things done.

The Holy Spirit will usually teach us how to receive revelation in a word of wisdom according to our understanding of the Word and our relationship with God.

Word of Knowledge: Word of Knowledge is for establishment and agreement. It is a revelation gift; therefore, one has to be careful not to be used by a different spirit. It is an operation of the Spirit that enables a believer to receive an information that is beyond or above the mind. The Spirit may take one in history, current affairs or the future of a person, family, church, region or country, in order to help establish a redemptive purpose.

The Word of knowledge comes by revelation from outside of your usual thought pattern to the inner man (Eph 3:16). One may hear like Samuel with Eli (1 Sam 3:1-5); Inward voice (Phil 2:13); Feeling or touch (Compassion-Matthew 9:36); tasting (Job 6:30); Smelling (Mark 9:25) Trances (Acts 10:10); Dreams, Job 33: 14-18); personal visits from the Lord or Angels (Judges 13, Rev.1:1)

Faith: The gift of faith comes in operation when God gives the ability to command things to come to pass, especially when given by the Word of knowledge, wisdom or discerning of spirits. Faith is a spiritual principle, above the understanding of the mind and the body, Faith is required by God so as not to overstep the freewill of man.

Hebrews 11:1 introduces us to faith as a substance of things hoped for, an evidence of things not seen. Revelation gives us permission to use spiritual faith, and it is primarily operated by command (Mark 11:24, Genesis 1:3,9). Spiritual faith goes beyond prayer, to command.

For one to grow in the spiritual gift of faith, they have to study the Word of God (for all gifts are released by faith and where faith is not, one cannot please God). Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). It also comes by praying a lot in the Spirit (Jude 20).

Gifts of healings: The gifts of healings depict God's creative work. The immediate profit is to the person being healed but the long-term profit is evangelism. God heals by sovereign action and by faith. Gifts of healing always will introduce someone into the world, and

whenever that person goes, they can be effective to serve God by that gift. Whenever there can be a conflict of what religion serves best, gifts of healings can settle the debate because it is only the Holy Spirit that can give this grace to those who believe in Jesus.

Jesus normally healed someone, and it would involve healing spirit, soul and body, not just body only. The gift of healing takes something out, fixes and puts something better in (restored health, good thoughts and better relationship with God. The approach of healing is love (Gal 5:6.), Romans 5:5, 1 Cor 8:1)

Working of Miracles: This is the 5th mentioned gift and 5 is a number of God's grace. While healings are for individuals, miracles are usually for multitudes. These miracles come by the working of power that far exceeds natural laws. Speaking in tongues, signs and wonders, are all miracles but not all signs and wonders are brought to pass by a command.

God spoke to Moses and Aaron to speak to Pharaoh and do miracles before him, so that the redemptive purposes of God can be seen in the land of Egypt, AND THE ROD OF Aaron became a serpent. Even when Egyptian witch doctors made snakes, Aaron's swallowed them. That is an example of working of miracles (Exodus 7:11-12). Jesus also worked miracles by word of command (Mark 3:5). These are just examples of many in the bible.

Prophecy: While knowledge helps you to know things in the natural by revelation, prophecy is a gift that helps usher one into the supernatural, to know how to proclaim them with boldness of a lion!

The gift of prophecy is the operation or God-given ability, where you may by the permission of the Spirit (as He wills), bring forth a message or a proclamation from or for God in your mother-tongue, for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the church and for the accomplishment of the will of God in the church. (1 Cor 14:3). The Greek Word is *Propheteia*, which means to speak out, to bring forth a message. Prophecy is a spontaneous message given by the Spirit for God's redemptive purposes (2 Peter 1:21)

The difference between Prophecy in the Old Testament and Prophecy in the New Testament is that in the Old Testament it was Spirit UPON (priest, King or prophet, or others as it was needed, (Numbers 11:14-17), while in the new Testament it is Spirit WITHIN (Acts 2:38)

Discerning of Spirits. This is the seventh listed gift, which implies that it requires greatest spiritual maturity. It involves critically examining (judging, making distinction). The primary discernment is not about evil spirits but the Holy Spirit. In 1 John 4:1, the Holy Spirit doesn't mind getting tested. Discerning of Spirits is a spiritual information about spiritual matters, like spiritual warfare, men's purpose and the rule over demons.

There are four categories of spirits: The Holy Spirit, the spirit of man, evil spirits and Holy angels (ministering spirits) (Heb 1:7, Psalms 91:10-12). It takes practice and knowing the Word, spending time in prayer and speaking in tongues much to be able to discern well.

Diverse Kinds of Tongues: Diverse kinds of tongues are listed number 8, which depicts a new beginning. This gift, and its counterpart, interpretation of tongues, are the only gifts not found in the Old Testament. While speaking in tongues comes out of one's spirit as you will because the Holy Spirit dwells IN you, diverse kinds of tongues come out of one's spirit as the spirit moves UPON them.

The gift of speaking in tongues (of humans or angels), are external manifestation in the sense realm of internal reality and the power of the Holy Spirit. With this gift, one is strengthened in the inner man (Jude 20), and is able to pray deeper than the natural (human weakness)

according to Romans 8:26-27). This gift also helps to quicken the mortal body and mortify carnality

(Romans 8: 11-13).

The greatest abuse of the gifts of speaking in tongues is not to speak much in tongues.

Interpretation of tongues: The gift of interpretation of tongues is the operation of the spirit of the God-given ability where one, by permission of the Holy Spirit, gives in mother tongue or learned language the interpretation of a prophetic message that has been given in tongues. Whatever tongues can be, interpretation can be. When there is a prophetic utterance in tongues, interpretation by the Spirit UPON is a necessity to give the message by the same Spirit. You do not know what to say before you say it, and one cannot rehearse it (1 Cor 14:12, John 14:26). Generally speaking, interpretation of tongues is done by the one who can speak in tongues.

Derek Prince notes that "...in order to become a Christian, you must be born of the Spirit of God. But in order to live like an effective Christian and come to maturity after you have been born again, you must be led by the Spirit of God continually..." (Price, 2010) This is an attitude that will change the world!

All this is done to glorify the name of Jesus therefore it is "ALL FOR CHRIST"!

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6. The Unity Dimension of the Gospel Across the Nations By Lumbani Precious Francis Nyasulu, PhD and Rev Max. B

Introduction

The unity dimension of the gospel is a central theme in Christian theology, emphasizing the call for believers across different cultures and nations to become one in Christ as they hold dear the gospel of Jesus Christ. This chapter explores how this unity dimension has been articulated and understood in recent theological discourse, supported by scriptural references and hermeneutical analysis. And it goes further to articulate what the gospel is all about and the challenge to the unity dimension of the gospel across the nations.

Theological Foundations of Unity Scriptural Basis

The New Testament is replete with calls for unity among believers. In Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV), Paul writes, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." This passage highlights the foundational belief in the oneness of the body of Christ.

Galatians 3:28 (NIV) further emphasizes inclusivity: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This scripture underscores the breaking down of societal barriers through the gospel.

Christ Jesus himself took time to pray for unity in John 17:11b (ESV), "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one." And in this prayer, He indicated that He had kept them united, He actually guarded them.

John 17:12 (ESV), "While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have

guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled." There is a requirement to guard the unity.

Hermeneutical Considerations

Recent scholarship has examined the historical and cultural contexts of these scriptural texts to deepen our understanding of their implications for contemporary issues of unity and diversity. According to Wright (2015), "Paul's letters addressed diverse communities facing internal and external pressures, calling them to unity in the midst of diversity" (p. 78). This historical context enhances our understanding of the unity Paul advocated.

Smith (2019) argues, "The early church's embrace of diverse cultural backgrounds set a precedent for modern Christian communities to seek unity amid diversity" (p. 45). Such perspectives provide a framework for interpreting the call to unity in contemporary settings.

Unity in Contemporary Theological Discourse: The Role of Ecumenism

Ecumenical movements play a crucial role in promoting unity among different Christian denominations. Johnstone (2020) notes, "Ecumenism is not merely an institutional endeavor but a spiritual quest to manifest the prayer of Jesus in John 17:21, 'that they may all be one'" (p. 68).

These movements strive to overcome doctrinal differences to present a unified witness to the world. The World Council of Churches (WCC), for instance, has been instrumental in fostering dialogue and cooperation among various Christian traditions.

It is however crucial to realize that as much as institutions are promoting unity, there is greater need for the individual members of the body of Christ all over the world to embrace the call to work at it as a team. The call for unity must echo in every living room, every street corner to formerly appointed officers, conferences and high-level dialogues. Each member of the body can make a difference.

Paul writing to the believers in Romans 12:4-5 (NIV) underscores the importance of each member, "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Johnstone (2020) calls this "a God Project" and goes further to suggest that "each one of us can make a positive contribution to 'unity of the gospel' if our eyes, ears, minds and hearts are open to the possibilities before us in the little world within which we live and move." Thus, regardless of denominational affiliations we can all settle on the gospel that unites us other than the diversity that surrounds us.

Global Perspectives on Unity

Globalization has significantly impacted the church's understanding of unity. Anderson and Young (2018) argue, "Globalization has challenged the church to reimagine its identity in a way that transcends national and cultural boundaries" (p. 102). This reimagining involves recognizing and celebrating the diversity within the global body of Christ.

Kim (2021) states, "The church's commitment to unity will be tested by cultural and theological differences, but these challenges present opportunities for growth and deeper understanding" (p. 59). Engaging with these differences can lead to a richer and more inclusive expression of faith.

Case Studies of Unity in Action

Intercultural Church Communities

Intercultural church communities exemplify the unifying power of the gospel. Garcia (2017) describes a multicultural church in Los Angeles where "worship services blend elements from various cultural traditions, creating a unique expression of unity in diversity" (p. 33). Such

communities embody the gospel's call for inclusivity. But such inclusivity must be held in tandem with Godly principles.

These churches not only reflect the demographic diversity of their surroundings but also intentionally incorporate diverse cultural expressions into their worship and community life.

Social Justice and Unity

Social justice is an essential aspect of the gospel's call for unity. According to Brown (2016), "Addressing systemic injustices is essential to realizing the biblical vision of a reconciled community" (p. 87). Efforts to combat racism, poverty, and inequality are integral to the church's mission.

Initiatives like Black Lives Matter and the global response to refugee crises illustrate how the church can engage in social justice as an expression of gospel unity. These efforts demonstrate the practical implications of theological principles.

Challenges and Opportunities Overcoming Divisions

Despite the biblical mandate for unity, divisions persist within the global church. Theological, cultural, and denominational differences often hinder the pursuit of unity. Kim (2021) highlights that "theological and cultural differences continue to pose challenges to achieving true unity" (p. 59). These divisions can be seen in debates over issues such as gender roles, sexuality, and doctrinal interpretations.

However, these challenges also present opportunities for deeper dialogue and mutual understanding. Engaging with different perspectives can lead to greater theological richness and a more robust witness to the world.

In order to overcome the challenges, the church needs to develop a clear and concise meaning of unity. In Ephesians 4:3 we read, "Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." This term "unity" comes from the Greek word "one" and means oneness.

This does not apply primarily to the local church but to the universal church.

Gilliam (2019) states that "unity is a surface relationship with other believers based upon the common roots and common purpose given to all who have a personal relationship with Christ. Therefore, unity does not require personal knowledge, or even agreement, except on a few issues." (p. 34)

Unity among Christians is both a gift and a task. As a gift, unity is given to us through our common faith in Christ Jesus. It is not something we create ourselves. Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) points out, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Overcoming distortions to the gospel

The gospel has got to be the same everywhere in the world, as long as it is the gospel of Jesus Christ. However, this unity faces a huge challenge of deception. Paul sounded a warning in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough."

It therefore calls on the church to be alert and to stand against any other gospel that is set to lead people astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. This calls for the church to be prepared in season and out of season to defend the faith for there is no other gospel. Paul echoes this in his letter to the Galatians as recorded in Galatians 1:6-8, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in

the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.”

To those who intently distort the gospel for whatever reasons, be warned; a curse is decreed upon anyone who preaches a gospel contrary to the one recorded in the Bible. The best is to learn well what the gospel is all about and propel the unity dimension of the gospel with knowledge.

It is therefore imperative that the church must guard jealously the gospel, it should never allow a different gospel that is a distorted version. Distortions will make the unity feeble, and such must never be entertained. The gospel of Jesus Christ undistorted must be preached to all and then the end will come. For this to happen the church needs to also overcome another challenge.

Overcoming the subtle nature of the great mixture

Christianity has grown so much of late that so many kinds of birds find themselves perching in Christianity. This tempts us to think that we are all united but when in actual sense the enemy is trying to infiltrate Christianity to the extent of causing believers fall off due to being offended by the conduct of a Christian brother or sister. If only we could understand that Jesus Christ warned us of this very thing, we could be wary of it.

In Matthew 13:31-32, Matthew records the parable given by our Lord Jesus Christ, “He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The bible gives a clear picture of birds of the air as reference to all sorts of evil, taking cognizance of the law of consistency in scripture. Grudem (2012) emphasizes that

interpretations should be coherent with the entire biblical message, not isolated from the broader context. When Jesus used any symbols more than once, He always meant the same thing. If He spoke of the sower, He always meant the same person, He meant the Son of

Man. If He speaks of the field more than once, He always means the same thing, which is the world. In the first place, He is not speaking of the Church, He is speaking about the world. If He speaks about the birds of the air, and in the parable of the sower, He says the birds of the air were the evil one; then, when He says that the birds of the air find a place in the great tree, He means the same thing. The same words mean the same thing every time.

So, this being the case, the church needs to make sure that the bible is appropriately studied and interpreted so that proper application will follow which will enable the believers to stand united regardless of the infiltration in the church by evil minded persons.

Hence the call from the Lord through Paul’s letter to the Ephesians in Chapter 6:10-11, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” To be forewarned is to be forearmed, the Lord gave us the parable to warn us so that we keep the unity regardless.

The Future of Gospel Unity

Looking forward, the church must navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing world while holding fast to the gospel’s unifying message. Thompson (2015) asserts, “The church’s commitment to unity will be tested, but it is in these tests that the authenticity of our witness to the gospel will be most clearly seen” (p. 120).

Technological advancements and increased global connectivity provide new platforms for fostering unity. Online communities and digital resources can bridge geographical and cultural gaps, creating new opportunities for collaboration and mutual support.

The Unchangeable Nature of the Gospel that Unites Us

The core of the gospel is the good news which demonstrates to all humanity that man is reconciled to God and to one another through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The word “Gospel” has its roots in the Greek word “euangelion” which comes from two other Greek words, “eu” meaning “good” and “angelos” meaning “messenger”. When put together, they mean good news and, in the Bible, this good news is always the news of and about Jesus Christ.

Paul laying bare the gospel, said, in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (ESV), “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” This is the gospel that unifies all Christians around the world.

The statement of the gospel that unites us contains two facts and one proof of each fact:

Fact 1: Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. This fact entails that people from all over the world must believe that

- Jesus is God.
- Jesus as the Messiah died.
- Jesus died for our sins
- And this according to the scriptures notably Isaiah 53:4-7 (ESV) “Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

Proof of fact 1: He was buried which proves that He actually died.

Fact 2: He rose from the dead, according to the scriptures. This also must be believed by all in the world for us to proclaim that we are united by the gospel. The resurrection of Christ is an integral part of the gospel. It is the fact that Christ lives and is our advocate at the Father's right hand that saves us from the wrath to come. Paul said in Romans 5:9-10 (ESV), “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”

Proof of fact 2: He appeared not only to Peter but also to the twelve, the five hundred and to Paul.

The gospel is a gospel of grace, which means it has no boundaries nor racial discrimination whatsoever. It is not dependent on what one does as it can not be earned. The word grace in Greek is “Charis” and means gift. It is God's unmerited favor. No work of man can contribute to it. Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes this point which eradicates elements of others being deserving or not deserving salvation, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” So, one's nationality, tribe or race matters less, we are unified by our faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ plus nothing. Gilliam (2019) states that “Salvation

is only by grace through faith in Christ plus nothing.”

It is a gospel that has broken down all barriers as recorded in Ephesians 2:14-16 (ESV), “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might

reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.” So, we can ably say that it is not the ordinances that unite us, but it is Christ himself that unites us. Why should we entertain hostility when Christ himself killed hostility.

Not only were barriers broken, but the gospel also brings those who were once considered far off and outsiders to become God’s children. Ephesians 2:11-13 (ESV) says, “Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is

called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Halleluiaah, the blood of Christ is a game changer, it has ended the alienation of many a people that were not counted as sons and daughters of God.

The gospel unites us further by making everyone who has faith in Christ to have access to the Father. Ephesians 2:17-18 (ESV) testifies to this, “And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” So, the Holy Spirit was given to enable all through Christ access

Him who was not accessible to many but a few. I recall when the veil that separated the holy of holies from the rest of the temple was torn apart from top to bottom, exposing what was not accessible to any Jim and Jack, Mary and Sophie.

The gospel is indeed a unifying factor as alluded to in Ephesians 2:19 (ESV), “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” It makes those who were not God’s family members, members of the family. It is amazing that the gospel makes a people that were not citizens, citizens together with all God’s holy people. It unites the sinner with the holy.

The gospel also makes us part of the whole. Ephesians 2:21 says, “in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” Getting hold of the gospel joins us together and enables us to grow into a holy dwelling for our God.

Conclusion

The unity dimension of the gospel across the nations is a profound testament to the inclusive nature of Christ’s message. By embracing this unity, the global church can better reflect the diversity and richness of God’s kingdom. The ongoing efforts towards ecumenism, the engagement with global perspectives, and the commitment to social justice all contribute to this vision. The challenges faced are significant, but they also provide opportunities for growth and deeper understanding.

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Available Strategies for Taking Over in Leadership

Chalwe Moses and Debra Ann Poole

Introduction

great leaders certainly do stand out. what make other leaders take over and shake the leadership ladders in History? Leadership is a multifaceted concept, and over the years, researchers have developed various theories to understand and define the qualities and behaviors that make a leader effective. These theories provide valuable insights into the nature of leadership, offering a diverse range of perspectives. In this article, we will explore four prominent leadership theories: The Trait Theory, Behavioral Theory, Contingency Theory, and Full-Range Leadership Model, shedding light on the unique principles and approaches each theory presents.

Trait Theory

The Trait Theory, one of the earliest approaches to understanding leadership, suggests that certain innate traits and characteristics make individuals natural leaders. Proponents of this theory argue that people are born with specific qualities such as charisma, intelligence, confidence, and emotional intelligence that predispose them to lead effectively. While trait theory has identified some common traits among successful leaders, it is essential to note that this theory oversimplifies the complex nature of leadership. Leadership effectiveness is not solely determined by inherent traits but also influenced by situational and contextual factors.

Behavioral Theory

The Behavioral Theory, in contrast to the Trait Theory, focuses on the actions and behaviors of leaders rather than their inherent traits. This theory asserts that leadership is a set of learned behaviors and skills that can be developed over time. Researchers in this field have identified two main categories of leadership behaviors: task-oriented and people-oriented. Task-oriented leaders prioritize goal achievement and task completion, while people-oriented leaders emphasize building relationships and supporting the well-being of team members. Behavioral theory highlights that leadership effectiveness can be enhanced through training and development.

Contingency Theory

The Contingency Theory, also known as Situational Leadership Theory, recognizes that the effectiveness of a leadership style depends on the specific situation or context. This theory emphasizes that there is no one-size-fits-all leadership approach. Instead, leaders must adapt their leadership style based on the circumstances, the capabilities of their team, and the task at hand. Prominent contingency theories include Fiedler's Contingency Model, Hersey-Blanchard's Situational Leadership Model, and the Path-Goal Theory, all of which provide guidance on how to match leadership styles to different situations to optimize effectiveness.

Full-Range Leadership Model

The Full-Range Leadership Model, often associated with transformational leadership, represents a more modern and comprehensive approach to leadership. This model posits that leadership involves a continuum of behaviors, ranging from transactional to transformational. Transactional leadership is focused on maintaining the status quo and rewarding or punishing team members based on their performance. Transformational leadership, on the other hand, inspires and motivates team members to achieve their full potential. The Full-Range Leadership Model encourages leaders to use a combination of transactional and transformational behaviors as appropriate for the situation.

Conclusion

Leadership theories have evolved significantly over the years, reflecting our changing understanding of leadership dynamics. The Trait Theory highlighted the significance of inherent traits but oversimplified leadership. Behavioral Theory emphasized learned behaviors and skills. Contingency Theory recognized the importance of adapting leadership styles to various situations, and the Full-Range Leadership Model advocates for a more dynamic and adaptive approach.

It is important to recognize that effective leadership is a blend of these theories, as no single theory provides a complete picture. In reality, successful leaders often integrate aspects of multiple theories to navigate the complex and ever-changing landscape of leadership. By understanding these diverse theories, current and aspiring leaders can develop a more nuanced and adaptable leadership style that meets the needs of their team and organization.

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IN THE CHURCH | 5 VITAL STRATEGIES

Learning how to be an effective leader in the church requires many qualities. There is no authority except from God ([Romans 13:1](#)); those who are in positions of church leadership are there by the grace of God and must lead in a way that is honorable and pleasing to Him.

However, leadership is challenging, involving the ability to navigate people and circumstances with nuance – every situation is different. While some aspects of leadership may come naturally, not all traits of an effective leader will.

Leaders in the church often struggle with leading because it requires a mix of skills and insights that often require time and experience to acquire. This challenge doesn't mean you don't have God's anointing on your life – just that you need to learn how to steward it well.

Before diving into how to be an effective leader in the church, it is worth spending a little time addressing the purpose of Church leadership, the difference between calling and gifting, and commitment to developing necessary leadership skills.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bible clearly states that each person in the Body of Christ has a unique role to fulfill and special giftings. The Bible also describes leadership roles that God places a person in:

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. – [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)

The word pastor in verse 11 means a herdsman, esp. a shepherd. Even though the English translation of this verse uses the word pastor for this role, the original Greek word, *poimēn*, is found in other places in Scripture describing the task of caring for people in the same way that a shepherd cares for a flock of sheep.

Caring for people in the same manner as a shepherd cares for sheep is emphasized throughout the Bible. Jesus would often use this relationship to illustrate His love for people.

Because Jesus modeled this level of care for people in His life and ministry, those in leadership should follow His example. A pastor should understand that his goal is to build up the body of Christ by being used by God to equip His people.

PRIMARY CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve the flock by attending to their needs. ([John 10:11-15](#))
 - Care for the flock by protecting them from danger. ([John 21:15-17](#), [Matthew 7:15](#))
 - Search for the one who strays from the flock. ([Luke 15:3-6](#))
 - Multiply the flock by training new leaders. ([Titus 1:5](#), [2 Timothy 2:2](#))
- Such responsibilities should not be taken lightly or entered into abruptly. While it is scriptural to teach that God does “call” individuals into pastoral ministry, the “called” are first trained and equipped before performing their God-given task.
- Jesus first trained Peter, John, and the other disciples for three years before being commissioned. ([Matthew 28:16-20](#))
 - The Apostle Paul, after his conversion, was sent out to preach under the prophets and teachers of the church in Antioch. ([Acts 13:1-2](#))
 - The Apostle Paul referred to Timothy as a son in the faith, indicating a level of mentorship and training.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CALLING AND GIFTING

Many people have several gifts that can serve the church; however, giftings are not designated to a specific location or church; they simply exist and can be used. On the other hand, a call involves a specific location, area, or body for the gifts to be used within.

“In considering the boundaries of leadership in a Christian, we must recognize the dynamic tension between a call and a gift. The Bible clearly states that men are sovereignly given gifts to take up places of leadership in the Christian community.

It seems that some leaders receive multiple gifts to fulfill functions in the churches, literature, communications, education, and world missions.

One contemporary writer distinguishes between the two in this way: A call is like the 'the rudder that steers the ship.

None of the spiritual gifts delineated in the New Testament has any geographical connotation. No one, for example, has the gift of missionary work in Africa or ministry to inner-city youth. The gifts instead describe the what of ministry, and the call designates the where of ministry."

It is vital to clarify the difference between receiving a call and being equipped to carry it out. It is evident in Scripture that although the Lord gives a calling, it is necessary to learn and develop the skills to perform.

Top of Form

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER IN THE CHURCH

Beyond a healthy relationship with God that involves prayer, there are five primary aspects of being an effective leader in the church: vision, strategy, empowerment, communication, and service.

ASPECTS OF EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH HAVE VISION

A leader must articulate a vision of what could be in the future. People will engage with leaders who can share beliefs about a goal worth building and working towards creating.

Vision is not optional for an effective leader. To use a movie reference from Back to the Future, vision is the "flux capacitor" of leadership. It makes time travel possible for a group of people to suddenly see a preferable future.

People must be able to see what you see if they will follow your leadership.

EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH ARE STRATEGIC

Church leaders must be able to plan for success by determining worthwhile goals *and* how to achieve them.

Leaders must be able to look toward the future and make strategic plans. When they are aware of opportunities and problems that will arise in the business environment, they can respond accordingly. A strategy helps leaders think in entirely new ways to ensure future success.

Often strategists and visionaries are cast as opposites; however, influential leaders are willing to lean into strategic processes and thinking to ensure that a worthwhile vision is realized.

EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH EMPOWER OTHERS

Team members and volunteers want to experience a sense of ownership when serving in the church. Highly invested people do not enroll in a mission to act like robots; they want to be apart and make decisions too.

When you delegate authority, what you're doing is giving your leaders an opportunity to grow. You're just controlling them when you tell them exactly what to do. The reality is this: you can have control, or you can have growth, but you can't have both. – [Craig Groeschel](#)

Leaders understand that it's best to create a healthy church culture that enables others to thrive, collaborate, and make decisions.

EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH CAN COMMUNICATE WITH CLARITY

Leaders in the church must be able to communicate. Church leaders are required to communicate in a variety of settings and dynamics. There is no getting around this aspect of church leadership.

There are different types of communicators, and your style can develop. You don't have to imitate others or try to be something you're not, but you will need to improve.

Communication is a skill that you can practice, and finding your voice may require some time. Regardless of your communication type, all communicators must be genuine, honest, empathetic, and straightforward.

EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN OVER TO SERVICE

Leading as a Christian is a response to Christ living within. Jesus led by serving and provided a perfect leadership model to follow. Tight management, driving rigidity, or enforcing others is not leading; it's controlling.

SOME LEADERS MAY SERVE THE WORD, AND OTHERS MAY SERVE TABLES, BUT ALL LEADERS SERVE! (ACTS 6)

Service is sacrificial and often means that you will give more than others may return, but we know that Jesus said that giving is better than receiving.

To build relationships and lead a diverse group of people, a pastor or church leader must be a well-rounded individual. Specific skills are necessary for leadership and can also benefit from refinement.

Learning how to be an effective leader in the church is possible. When you know what skills and attributes you lack, you can intentionally put forth the effort to develop what's missing.

CHARACTERISTICS EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH DEVELOP

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE HUMILITY

Humility is one of the most attractive qualities of a leader. When church leaders exhibit humility, it demonstrates their dependence on God and appreciation of others.

Humility is a difficult quality to maintain when you are in a leadership position. It's easy to become prideful and think that you are the one making things happen, and understandably so. However, leaders must develop greater self-awareness and be open to others providing feedback. People are drawn to humility because it shows that you recognize your weaknesses and can learn from others. It also shows that you're willing to put others' needs before your own. People will follow a humble leader.

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE INTEGRITY

As a leader in the church, you must have integrity if you want people to trust you. Practicing integrity means being consistent in your words and actions in and outside the church. In a world where it seems like everyone is out for themselves, it is refreshing to find someone who has integrity.

Leaders understand that trust essentially equates to confidence and work to build it through a transparent lifestyle and following through on their word.

If there is an area you struggle with, you're not alone. There are a few things you can do::

- Be honest with yourself. If you're not living a life of integrity, be honest about why and what needs to change.
- Surround yourself with godly people who will hold you accountable.
- Study the Word of God and learn what it means to live a life of integrity.
- Depend on God's grace. It's impossible to consistently live a life of integrity without the Holy Spirit empowering you and changing your heart.

Ask God for help with this area, ask for the help you need, then step out in faith and start living the way Jesus wants you to.

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE FAITH

It's not enough to talk a good game or preach passionately from the pulpit if there isn't an equal measure

of passion demonstrated through personal example. Followers need to see the leader living out the vision and values of the church, not just preaching about them on Sundays.

Therefore, church leaders must be intentional about keeping their faith active and alive.

To help create healthy practices that build your faith, evaluate how often you engage in different spiritual disciplines like:

- Prayer
- Honest Transparency With Close Friends
- Worship
- Requesting Feedback
- Scripture Reading

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE PRIORITIZING THEIR WELL-BEING

The repercussions of a lack of focus on the well-being of leaders in the church are becoming more evident. When leaders neglect their mental or physical health, it is a good indicator of their spiritual health.

It's easy for church leaders to consume themselves with work, performance, the needs of others, all of which are driven by insecurity and a lack of self-awareness. But if you want to be an effective leader, you need to be emotionally, physically, and spiritually healthy.

Healthy leaders understand the value of setting boundaries, practicing self-compassion, and forgiving themselves if they make mistakes. By doing so, you'll also model health to those you lead and help them to do the same.

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE A WILLINGNESS TO LEARN Leaders must be pliable, adaptable, and willing to grow too. A church leader who is stuck in their ways becomes difficult to follow and eventually loses influence with others.

Great leaders are secure enough to learn from others; they ask lots of questions, remain open, and stay teachable.

EFFECTIVE CHURCH LEADERS PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT

Leaders in the church must stay in touch with those they lead. Isolation, autonomy, and separation from the team or congregation can create unhealthy dynamics.

Seek to know the people who serve with you or come to your church personally. Learn about their life, discover their strengths and weaknesses, and find ways to connect with them in meaningful ways.

SUMMARY

If you're curious about how to be an effective leader in the church, the simple answer is modeling Christ-like leadership. Christ was a servant leader who showed up for his people, engaged them in the ministry process, and empowered them to do their best work.

Take time to reflect on your leadership style and any church leadership problems you may be facing. Consider if there are things you can improve on. The more open you are about your shortcomings, the better you'll be.

And remember: it's not all about you – leadership never is! You need God's grace to be an effective leader and empower those around you. So, lean on Him and others, believing that you can create a Christ-centered ministry.

Reggie Greenleaf Potami University

Testimonies

Revelation 12:11 – 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 word “testimony” in the Greek (martyreo) has various meanings but the one written about here is: To affirm that one has seen, heard or experienced something. In this chapter what is being given are the various testimonies in different categories to show God's willingness to help us in all situations of life. It doesn't matter where we live, the circumstances we face, who we are or our frailties or strengths. The bible says in Acts 10:34 that “...God is no respecter of persons”.

This means that what God has done for one, He will do for others if the criterion of faith is upheld. The Old Testament is full of the works of God that He was willing to perform for the children of Israel if they would just trust Him and worship no other gods. He is no different now. Truthfully, we actually have a greater promise built on walking by faith and not by sight because of what Jesus Christ accomplished both on the cross and in His resurrection.

There are two verses that can be highlighted here before the actual testimonies are recorded:

- 1) Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please God for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”
- 2) Ephesians 3:20 – “Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

The prayer should be that these testimonies will inspire faith and great boldness in your walk with God to trust Him even more with all situations/circumstances in your life and in praying for others!

FAMILY HEALING MINISTRY – LIGHT TO THE NATIONS TESTIMONIES

I know a man named Bill Wise, who has a wonderful wife and three awesome children. They travel all over the world ministering to people as they encounter them on the streets or in the stores or on a ferry! They consider this a lifestyle in their service to the Lord. Here I will share multiple accounts of healings that Jesus Christ performed through them. Their children minister very effectively and I can personally testify to this truth as the children ministered to me many years ago when I was in the middle of a gallbladder attack. They prayed for me, commanded healing and within 24 hours I was completely pain free!

-A woman they encountered at a gas station was wearing a back brace from a car accident several years ago. She had three blown discs in her back, was in excruciating pain daily and there didn't seem to be much the doctors could do for her. They as a family approached her and asked if they could pray

for her and when they did the pain in her back miraculously left her. She was so excited and thankful to the Lord and the family!

-Another woman traveling walked into a convenience store and Bill noticed that she was limping. She had also been in a car accident the previous year and was not able to lift her right arm above her shoulder, she also stated that as they were praying for her knees the floor beneath her became level and she said that since the car accident that had been a permanent state. She gave the glory to God and tearfully thanked the family!

-A gentleman named Ambrose had been in a wheelchair for eight years unable to walk and had an infection in his back. The family prayed for him and he stood up and started taking slow but distinct steps for the first time in eight years!

This family goes all over the world to wherever the Lord calls them to minister to others. Bill says that ministering healing is the most fun a family can have together! There are many more testimonies on their website many of them in other countries.

You can view more of their wonderful testimonies on their website at: www.light2thenations.org (*All testimonies and the website are shared with permission*).

THE HEALING ANOINTING

Luke 5:17....and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

They had just finished a long Sunday service in a Nairobi city church. They walked back to the pastor's office and the apostle was given a Coca Cola to drink. The pastor left and returned carrying a small boy and informed him that the boy needed prayer. As the pastor lay the boy down on a chair the apostle could see that the boy's right leg was facing backwards, he suffered from polio.

The Holy Spirit spoke to the apostle and said, "Grab his knee and turn it around!" As he did so the Holy Spirit spoke again and said, "Grab his foot and turn it around!" So, he did. The Holy Spirit continued to speak and said, "Grab his foot and reshape the bone properly!" The apostle grabbed the boy's foot and massaged it until the bones were in the proper place. Within minutes the young boy was running home to his mother! Praise the Lord!

THE JOY OF HEALING

Her name is Heather and she loves to minister and pray for the people she takes care of on the hospital floor where she works. She is excited about Jesus and His love for people and she is exuberant in her witness. She moves among those much like Jesus did reaching out with loving hands and prayers/declarations for healing.

-There's the lady with boils and scabs on her legs that she offered to pray for who began to see her legs becoming healed and smooth.

-The gentleman who was in a wheelchair because of weakness and not able to sleep through the night. After night prayers he slept all night and was able to get up and walk the next day!

-Another woman had sundowners and would get out of bed in the middle of the night and she was a big fall risk. After night prayers she now sleeps through the night! (I do elder care and I know just how big of a miracle this is!)

-One patient had intense fear and had blood in her urine. Started on antibiotics and prayer with Heather and now the fear and anxiety are gone and her urine is clear. She had wounds that are healing and less pain.

They all want more of Jesus!

DEATH DEFEATED TWICE

In 1995, I was struck by a brain aneurysm. My son who had just returned from a weekend class teaching healing and deliverance prayed against the spirit of death and off to hospital emergency I went. The next morning as I was lying in my hospital bed full of pain medication praying, I felt the Lord prompt me to ask for a Bible. When the nurse brought it to me, I asked the Lord, “Where do I go?” and I opened to Psalms and began to read. When I reached Psalms 4:8 “In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety” It was as though the verse was highlighted. By the Holy Spirit I knew that if I had the exploratory procedure, they wanted me to have, I would die on the table, so I refused it. The surgeon was very angry, but I stood firm. This was the first time that death was defeated.

Months later I was doing very well after many people had laid hands on me at various times for different healings and I felt my brain was healed. But then I was experiencing random shooting pains across my face and I would think “I am going to die”. Please know that if you have continuous negative thoughts about yourself and your situation you need to ask God questions. Fiery darts are for real! (I thought it was me thinking but, in all actuality, it was fiery darts from the wicked one) For some reason I told no one. I just went about my day to day without really seeking God to ask what it was.

A bunch of us went to a Praise and Worship weekend which was right around the year anniversary of the brain aneurysm. We were sitting quietly praying for each other when an apostle friend of mine walked over and put his hand upon my head. He ministered against the pain I had been having (remember he had no idea because I had told no one) and rebuked the spirit of death! I honestly believe that if he had not listened to the Holy Spirit that when that anniversary came, I would have died! And from that day forward I never had another pain and rarely have a headache! This was the second time that death was defeated. Our God is a good Father!

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

I received a call from the head of the ministry that I serve under. “Please call this woman” he said. “She has breast cancer and needs healing”. Well, I had never ministered to anyone with breast cancer. I told the Lord that I really needed His help with this one, especially considering that chemotherapy was not something that she would consider. She wanted to be treated naturally and went all over the United States to get what she needed. Since I was not a big fan of chemotherapy it wasn’t hard for me to stand in agreement with her, The thing about any diagnosis of cancer is it strikes fear in the hearts of people and before I could ever get to the healing part with her, I had to deal with the fear. Otherwise, she probably would either not receive or retain her healing.

For almost a year we had weekly, sometimes daily phone calls dealing with the fear and anxiety. Teaching her about God’s love and who she was and the authority she had in Christ was important. Also teaching her how to make declarations and proclamations over her body to counteract all negative thinking and talking about the condition was major.

She called me one day to ask my advice about the lump in her breast and whether or not she should have it removed. She really did not want to have any surgery, but the lump was in a place that her arm constantly brushed against it. I told her that if she could not avoid thinking about it because of the location that maybe it would be best to have it removed so that it would be easier not to make it a

constant focus. She decided to have the lump removed.

She had the lump removed and praise God within the next six months she was declared cancer free! All this time we had been talking on the phone and never in person. She lived in one state, and I lived in another! On my 60th birthday a good friend threw a birthday party for me, and this woman came! During that whole year we became close friends, and it was so good to finally meet her face to face! God is good!

FAITH WORKETH BY LOVE – GALATIANS 5:6

In the ministry I work for I am the International Director for Schools of Ministry in Africa. I speak to Africans weekly sometimes daily through Whatsapp and Zoom. I love the African people and have seen many healings through the years I have volunteered/worked in this position. Sometimes they tell me they are sick and I always try to ask if they would like for me to call and pray for them directly. Sometimes that is just what a person needs is to hear a loving voice praying for them. We have also had the students in our schools pray for people and see healings. Following are a few of these.

Her name was Lucy and I had met her when she and I shared a cottage at a Holy Spirit Seminar at Prayer Mountain, Jinja, Uganda. She had such a sweet spirit and I truly fell in love with her and the other girls in the cabin.

One day one of my directors that works directly with Lucy sent me this Whatsapp message: Hi Reggie, Urgent prayers for Director Lucy Ndegwa of Kitale. She has not woken up from bed since morning. She has serious headache, imbalance, pain all over the body and she has lost appetite. Let us trust God for her healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

When I receive a message like this one of the first things, I do is to begin to speak in tongues for her and then call her to pray for her over the phone. I could tell over the phone that she did not feel well at all so I began to pray and command healing into her body. I did this for several minutes seeking God in prayer and then commanding what I saw in my spirit to bring healing to her body. After a few minutes I stopped and told her to get some rest and to let me know how she felt later.

Later in the day I got this really sweet message: Hi darling Reggie, hope you're doing fine my dear thanks so much for your prayers am now feeling well ready to work for the kingdom of God. Next week by the grace of God I will be in prayer mountain for seven days thanks loveyou.

That same day I received this message from the director regarding his wife: Also, Reggie send this prayer request across our network... my wife has been admitted to Aga Khan hospital in Kisumu City due to blocked heart on one side. Let us believe God for the healing.

Several days later: I take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers and support. We arrived in Nairobi safely and eagerly awaited the Heart Specialist. He started working on her immediately because she felt as if the heart was burning inside her. It has taken 12 hrs. for the heart to be stable. I believe it has taken God's hand as you guys are standing with me in prayers.

Then another several days later: No Stents were put in her arteries it was all miracles. God took over the situation and stopped the enemy from doing anything harmful to my wife all by your prayers my dear friends. Our God is a good, good God!

I also would like to share about the school of ministry that we had in Ivory Coast before things got really bad in that area. The director and his students went out to minister to the community one day and they came across a prostitute. They shared about Jesus and how much He loved her. She shared with them that she had just been diagnosed with AIDS and she had no money to be able to get treatment. They prayed

with her and led her into salvation by Jesus Christ and prayed over her for healing. She began to come and sit in the lessons with the students so she could stay off the streets. The last I heard she had gone to the doctors and had more tests run and was AIDS free! That is our God folks! I still pray for that director and his students. War began in their area and I lost contact with the director. I pray that someday God will bring us back together!

LIFE AND GODLINESS AND PRAISE!

2 Peter 1:3 – His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue.

It was right in the middle of the pandemic here in the United States. Everything was going up and especially the cost of renting a place to live was becoming too expensive for most people in our area and that included me and my roommate! The place that we had just moved into five months before decided to raise the rent to an exorbitant amount that we just could not afford. The temptation to give in to worry and the fear of being put out on the streets was more of a reality than I wanted to think about! I'm so thankful for what I have learned through the years about God's grace, mercy and love for His children. I knew if I gave into the emotions that wanted to overcome me, I would just sink into depression.

So, I decided to put God to the test and see if the bible meant what it said. I mean, what is more important in life (day to day living) than a roof over your head that you can depend on? So, I started praying diligently and seeking the Lord about what I was to do. My roommate being older wasn't really in the position to be very helpful so it was up to me to find a place that we could afford to share.

We went and checked out several places that were dark and broken down in places and very tiny and they were either out of the price range that we could afford or were too dirty for us to even consider! I knew that God wanted us to have a place that would be a blessing and that we could enjoy life in. We didn't need a palace or a really big place but it needed to be decent and big enough for the both of us and my two small dogs. Also, I didn't have a lot of time to look for a place.

So, I continued to seek God and thank Him for our new home. One verse the Lord highlighted during this time was Psalms 67:5-7 "Let the people praise You O God; let all the people praise you. Then shall the earth yield her increase and God even our own God shall bless us." I began to add praise into the mix because I knew that God inhabits the praises of His people and that many times praise will open doors that seem impossible to open.

One evening a friend sent me a text with an advertisement for a rental home. Let me just say that my heart kind of leaped within me as I looked at the red front door and the street number was

222. After looking at the house and the yard I told my roommate that this was the one, it had everything that we needed! Now I know that numbers are very significant in the word of God and two according to E.W. Bullinger's Numbers in Scripture is the number representing a thing being established. The number three represents completeness (God, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit forming the holy trinity) and man (spirit, soul and body)! After looking at the house and the yard I told my roommate that this was the one! To me, 222, spoke in the manner that this was established and completely ours. But how to see it come to pass? In the USA, a landlord requires much information (application filled out), a background check and a credit check. I did a check and so far, there were over 70 people who had already applied for this rental! How was I going to stand out from all of them?

As I continued to praise God and seek Him for the solution, I remembered that a ministry friend teaches on the Problem-Solving Anointing (remember the widow and the oil in 2 Kings 4:1-7 Elisha had the

Problem-Solving Anointing!) and I knew I had a problem that needed solving so I looked up this teaching which I knew I had in a previous email. The principle is to not allow your emotions to lead you but to slow down and concentrate on the presence of God in your spirit which quiets the soul and allows you to hear the voice of God. You have to discipline yourself to wait on Him. When the answer comes it will be the perfect answer. Now you need to be willing to walk this out. Speaking in tongues is great during these times because it helps quiet the soul and if you do it long enough it roots out distractions!

I know this is long but please bear with me! You see, during these times of focusing on God, He graciously gave me the exact thing to say to this landlord in an email to not only make us stand out but also convince him that we would be the perfect tenants. I will just say that I never thought that telling someone that I have a lawn mower and I enjoy keeping my lawn neatly mowed would ever convince a landlord to choose us out of 70 other applicants.....but it did! And not only that he did not make us do background checks or credit checks because they are costly and he did not want to cause us extra expense! How is that for Ephesians 3:20: "... exceedingly, abundantly above all we can ask or think"! We have been living here almost two years and we (and the dogs) love our landlord and our cozy little home. We have great neighbors who have been a great blessing to us both and we live in a quiet, safe neighborhood that we daily enjoy. Our God is such an awesome God and Father to us and we praise Him in the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ's name!

SOMETIMES IT COMES IN A DREAM

It was the end of the pandemic and international travel was easier, so it was decided that I needed to go to a conference in Uganda, Africa. "How am I going to do this God", I said frantically knowing that it was going to be expensive to travel to Africa. Not only would I need finances for travel but there were still the financial responsibilities that I had at home, and I would not be working for a whole week! I did all the things that I mentioned in the previous testimony, but I was struggling to be peaceful and see it happening in the spirit.

That's when the dream came. God gave me a dream that made no sense to me. I need to say this. I don't normally dream so this was a wild learning experience for me. I will just say that in the dream I was in an airport. All sorts of different things happened and they were weird! Ever read Revelations and try to figure that out? Well, this was similar in complexity for me.

Every Tuesday I host a ZOOM call with people from here in the states and Africa. One Tuesday I told the group about my dream and asked them what they thought. The end result was I knew with confidence that I was supposed to go, and that God would take care of all of it! I won't go into all the details, but large amounts of money began to come into the ministry that I work for, from people that I never asked and I received extra work to be able to finance the rest easily. I had never experienced such ease in preparing financially for a trip! It was all God working in people and in me (primarily I just had to believe the dream and have faith in God's ability to provide).

THE WEATHER

John 14:12: ...he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also...

I live in a rural area of the United States and every year we have a time of tornadoes. I've only seen them on TV but the destruction they cause strikes fear in people when we get a tornado warning. I have long believed that Jesus meant what He said in John 14:12 and have often made declarations over my community for safety and protection. One evening our skies were very dark and the weather forecasters

were predicting tornadoes to possibly come through our area. I was standing on my side porch looking out over the fields across from my home. I look up and see a really ominous cloud and as I watched it a funnel began to form before my eyes! “Command the rotation to stop, go back up into the cloud and for the tornado to disappear!”, said Holy Spirit to me. I pointed my finger and yelled at that cloud what the Holy Spirit told me. (I don’t believe it is godly to send it to another area as I have heard others do because I don’t want anyone to be hurt by it!) As I watched in amazement the rotation stopped as the tail returned up into the cloud and it began to rain.

ANIMALS

Psalms 115:16 - "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men". I believe that just as Jesus said we have been given authority and dominion in this earth. How we apply this is according to the instructions of the Holy Spirit within us.

One evening I was out for a walk with a friend of mine whom I met several months earlier and she had witnessed the Lord’s love for me which brought me back home to God. Sound familiar? We were walking around the neighborhood and it was dark. We were just talking and walking and all of a sudden, we heard growling and barking! We could tell it was a dog but it was so dark and we were right under a street light so we couldn’t see past it’s perimeter. It sounded very ferocious and scary and we could hear it getting closer. My friend, whose name was Linda had been teaching me about the authority that we have in Christ. You never really understand it until you see it in action. I did that night! She planted her feet in the direction of the snarling and growling, raised her finger, pointed and shouted, “in the name of Jesus Christ you stop and turn around and leave, NOW!” All of a sudden, the snarling and growling stopped! We stood there waiting and listening.

We never saw the animal (we assumed it was a dog) and I am so thankful that I experienced that because I have applied that many times through the years as I have always lived in rural areas where there were an abundance of dogs. Many times, I have commanded a dog that didn’t appear friendly to “go home in Jesus’ name”, and seen them turn around and leave.

As you can see God works in all areas of the world to bring to past healing and help to His children. I pray that the testimonies here will inspire you to pray for and minister healing to people more and more. It’s OK if you don’t get a healing every time but press in and pray in the spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you as you move out in faith.

I once told God, “I don’t mind looking foolish as long as it is for You and I am doing Your will.” God bless you and may you begin to see and hear testimonies to God’s goodness all around you!

Collins Ogiki & Helen Dang

Lightbearers Masterclass

Potami University

Introduction: Unveiling the Triune Nature of Human Existence

In the vast and intricate tapestry of human experience, the interplay between the spirit, soul, and body forms the essence of our existence. Each dimension of our being contributes uniquely to who we are and how we navigate the world. To understand and harmonize these components is to unlock a profound reality that touches every aspect of our lives—spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

The Spirit

Is often considered the divine spark within us, a reflection of our eternal essence and our connection to the transcendent. It is through the spirit that we grasp the mysteries of existence, experience divine communion, and find the profound purpose that transcends our earthly journey. As the seat of our deepest beliefs and moral compass, the spirit guides us toward a higher understanding of life and its divine framework.

The Soul

represents the core of our individuality—the realm where our emotions, thoughts, and identity converge. It is the vessel through which we experience the richness of human emotion, personal growth, and the quest for meaning. The soul's journey is one of continual transformation, as it absorbs life's experiences and integrates them into the tapestry of our personal narrative. Understanding the soul helps us navigate our inner landscape, fostering personal development and resilience.

The Body

Our physical vessel is the tangible aspect of our existence. It interacts with the material world, responds to sensory inputs, and influences our well-being. The body's health and vitality directly impact our spirit and soul, making it a

crucial component in the holistic approach to understanding ourselves. Caring for the body, therefore, is not merely a matter of physical health but a reflection of our overall well-being and spiritual balance.

This publication endeavors to explore the intricate realities of these three dimensions—spirit, soul, and body. It seeks to uncover how these elements interact, influence each other, and collectively shape our existence. Through the

wisdom of esteemed Christian leaders and contemporary theologians, we will embark on a journey that illuminates the profound connection between these realms and awakens us to a more complete understanding of our eternal nature.

As we delve into these pages, may we be inspired to harmonize our spirit, soul, and body, recognizing that each plays a vital role in our journey towards wholeness and fulfillment. This exploration promises to be a transformative experience, one that not only uncovers hidden truths but also invites us to embrace a deeper, more meaningful engagement with our entire being.

Unveiling the Divine Connection: The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Man

In the grand narrative of creation and divine revelation, the interplay between the Spirit of God and the spirit of man is a profound mystery that intricately weaves together the divine and human realms. This exploration reveals not only the nature of each spirit but also the transformative power embedded within their interaction. By delving into the characteristics, functionalities, and uniqueness of both spirits, we uncover the divine design that connects humanity with the Creator and illuminates the path of salvation.

The Spirit of God: Characteristics, Functionalities, and Uniqueness

The Spirit of God, also known as the Holy Spirit, is a multifaceted divine presence that influences every aspect of creation and human experience. Understanding its nature provides profound insight into its role in the divine plan.

Characteristics of the Spirit of God

1. Omnipotent and Sovereign: The Spirit of God embodies omnipotence. Genesis 1:2 reveals that the

Spirit hovers over the waters, bringing order and life from chaos. This sovereignty extends to all aspects of creation and human history, underscoring the Spirit's authority and power to enact God's will.

2. Omniscient and Illuminating: 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 states, "The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." The Spirit possesses infinite knowledge and understanding, illuminating divine mysteries and imparting wisdom to humanity. This omniscience allows the Spirit to reveal truths that transcend human comprehension, guiding believers into deeper understanding.
3. Omnipresent and Immanent: Psalm 139:7-10 declares, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?" The Spirit's omnipresence means it is present everywhere, yet intimately involved in the details of individual lives. This immanence allows the Spirit to engage deeply with creation, sustaining and nurturing every aspect of existence.

Functionalities of the Spirit of God

1. Creator and Sustainer: As depicted in Genesis 1:2, the Spirit plays a crucial role in creation. Beyond its initial work, the Spirit continues to sustain and uphold the universe. Colossians 1:17 affirms, "And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."
2. Guide and Teacher: John 14:26 describes the Spirit as "the Helper" who teaches and reminds believers of Christ's teachings. This role involves imparting knowledge and helping believers apply divine principles, fostering spiritual growth and maturity.
3. Sanctifier and Comforter: Romans 8:16 and John 14:16 highlight the Spirit's role in sanctification and comfort. The Spirit transforms believers into the image of Christ and provides comfort through the assurance of divine presence and support.
4. Empowerer for Mission: Acts 1:8 states, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." The Spirit empowers believers for mission and service, equipping them with spiritual gifts and boldness to fulfill God's purposes.

Uniqueness of the Spirit of God

1. Triune Relationship: The Spirit of God is one person of the Holy Trinity, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. This triune relationship emphasizes the unity and diversity within the divine nature, showcasing the intricate and perfect harmony of God's being.
2. Creative Expression: The Spirit's involvement in creation reveals a divine creativity that brings beauty, order, and purpose to the universe. This creativity extends to the regeneration and renewal of human lives, reflecting the Spirit's ability to bring new beginnings and transformation.
3. Covenantal Presence: The Spirit establishes and maintains a covenantal relationship with humanity, guiding and sustaining the faithful. This covenantal presence signifies a deep, personal commitment to the well-being and spiritual growth of believers.

The Spirit of Man: Characteristics, Functionalities, and Uniqueness

The spirit of man, created in the image of God, holds a unique position in the divine-human relationship. Understanding its characteristics, functionalities, and supernatural aspects reveals its intricate design and purpose.

Characteristics of the Spirit of Man

1. Consciousness and Will: The human spirit is the seat of consciousness, self-awareness, and moral

decision-making. Ecclesiastes 12:7 emphasizes that the spirit returns to God, highlighting its integral role in personal identity and moral responsibility.

2. **Relational Capacity:** Created in the divine image, the human spirit has the capacity for deep relational connections. This relational capacity enables individuals to engage in meaningful relationships with God, others, and themselves, reflecting the triune nature of God's relational essence.
3. **Moral and Spiritual Insight:** Proverbs 20:27 describes the human spirit as "the lamp of the LORD," indicating its role in moral and spiritual discernment. The human spirit has an innate sense of right and wrong, guiding individuals toward ethical living and spiritual awareness.

Functionalities of the Spirit of Man

1. **Mediator of Divine Interaction:** The human spirit serves as the medium through which individuals experience and interact with the divine. This interaction includes receiving divine revelation, responding to God's call, and participating in spiritual practices that nurture the relationship with the Creator.
2. **Agent of Transformation:** The human spirit can undergo profound transformation through the influence of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:17 illustrates this transformation, where individuals become "new creations" in Christ, reflecting the Spirit's power to renew and regenerate.
3. **Channel of Spiritual Gifts:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 outlines various spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the church. The human spirit, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, becomes a channel for these gifts, enabling believers to contribute to the common good and fulfill God's purposes.
4. **Facilitator of Purposeful Living:** The human spirit is designed to seek and fulfill divine purposes. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD," indicating that the human spirit is oriented toward discovering and living out God's plan for individual and collective life.

Uniqueness of the Spirit of Man

1. **Divine Image and Reflection:** The human spirit reflects the divine image, imbuing humanity with unique attributes such as rationality, creativity, and relational capacity. This divine reflection signifies the inherent dignity and potential of the human spirit to mirror God's nature.
2. **Supernatural Capacity:** The human spirit possesses a supernatural capacity for connection with the divine. This includes the ability to engage in spiritual experiences, discern divine truths, and exercise faith. Acts 17:28 affirms, "For in him we live and move and have our being," highlighting the human spirit's supernatural orientation toward God.
3. **Transformative Potential:** The human spirit's potential for transformation through the Holy Spirit underscores its unique role in the divine plan. Romans 12:2 calls believers to "be transformed by the renewal of your mind," illustrating how the human spirit can be reshaped and aligned with divine purposes through spiritual renewal.

The Salvation of the Spirit of Man: A Divine Masterpiece

The salvation of the spirit of man represents a profound and multi-dimensional process that addresses the estrangement caused by sin and offers a path to reconciliation and renewal.

The Divine Necessity for Salvation

1. **The Fall and Its Consequences:** Genesis 3 introduces the concept of original sin, which profoundly affects the human spirit. The disobedience of Adam and Eve led to spiritual death and separation from God, altering human nature. Romans 5:12 states, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” This spiritual death resulted in a fractured relationship with God, creating a profound need for divine intervention.
2. **The Depth of Human Estrangement:** The estrangement caused by sin affects the entire human experience. Isaiah 64:6 describes this condition: “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” This state of spiritual decay underscores the necessity for a transformative solution.

The Divine Provision: Christ’s Atonement

1. **The Sacrificial Death:** The sacrificial death of Jesus is central to the atonement. John 1:29 proclaims, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Jesus’ sacrifice fulfills the Old Testament sacrificial system and provides a once-for-all atonement for sin. His death not only pays the penalty for sin but also demonstrates the extent of God’s love and justice.
2. **The Resurrection and Victory:** The resurrection of Christ signifies victory over sin and death. Romans 6:9 asserts, “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.” This victory affirms the assurance of eternal life for believers and offers new life and restored communion with God.

The Transformative Process of Salvation

1. **Regeneration and New Birth:** Regeneration, or being “born again,” is foundational to salvation. John 3:5-6 highlights this transformation: “Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.’” Regeneration through the Holy Spirit brings about a fundamental change in the human spirit, from spiritual death to vibrant new life.
2. **Sanctification and Growth:** Sanctification is the ongoing process of spiritual purification and transformation. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 states, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable.” Sanctification involves growing into Christ’s image and aligning the human spirit with divine purposes.
3. **Empowerment for Purpose:** Salvation equips the human spirit for divine purpose and service. Acts 1:8 emphasizes, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.” The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts and empowers believers to live out their calling and fulfill God’s mission.
4. **Integration into the Body of Christ:** Salvation integrates individuals into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 describes this integration: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” The redeemed spirit becomes part of a greater whole, contributing to the church’s edification and mission.

The Eternal Assurance of Salvation

1. Assurance of Eternal Life: The promise of eternal life is central to salvation. John 10:28-29 offers this assurance: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” This promise ensures that the redeemed spirit will dwell eternally in God’s presence, experiencing unbroken communion and fulfillment.
2. Hope and Fulfillment: Salvation instills a living hope that transcends current experiences. 1 Peter 1:3-4 declares, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” This hope reflects the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises.
3. Transformation and Perfection: Salvation promises ultimate transformation and perfection. Philippians 3:20-21 states, “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” This transformation involves the ultimate perfection of the human spirit, aligning it fully with divine nature and purpose.
4. Eternal Relationship with God: The culmination of salvation is an eternal relationship with God. Revelation 21:3-4 describes this reality: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” This eternal relationship signifies the final fulfillment of the divine plan, where the human spirit experiences complete restoration and communion with God.

The salvation of the spirit of man is a divine masterpiece, unfolding through a profound process of atonement, regeneration, sanctification, and empowerment. It addresses the fundamental human need for reconciliation with God, offering a transformative journey from estrangement to eternal unity. Through Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection, the human spirit is cleansed, renewed, and equipped for divine purpose. This salvation provides assurance of eternal life, instilling hope and fulfillment that transcends temporal existence. It promises not only forgiveness but also the ultimate transformation and perfection of the human spirit. As believers embrace this salvation, they become participants in the divine narrative of redemption, reflecting God’s boundless grace and the enduring fulfillment of the human spirit’s potential. The journey of salvation, with its intricate process and profound implications, stands as a testament to the depth of divine love and the ultimate restoration of humanity’s divine connection.

Unraveling the Mysteries of the Soul: Its Divine Essence, Unique Attributes, Salvation, Anatomy, and Eternal Dimensions

The soul, a core component of human existence, is both a profound mystery and a divine gift. This exploration delves into its essence, unique characteristics, transformative journey of salvation, intricate anatomy, and its eternal dimensions. Through an understanding of the soul’s divine nature and the concept that our knowledge of God shapes our eternal body, we uncover the profound connection between our spiritual essence and eternal destiny.

The Divine Essence of the Soul: A Journey into Its Nature and Uniqueness

The soul is often regarded as the essence of our being, acting as a bridge between our earthly experience and the divine. Understanding its essence and unique attributes provides insight into its role in human experience and spirituality.

The Soul's Fundamental Nature

Eternal and Unchanging: The soul is designed to be eternal, transcending the temporal nature of the physical body. Ecclesiastes 12:7 asserts, "The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it." This eternal quality underscores the soul's enduring existence beyond physical death.

Rational and Emotional Depth: The soul integrates both rational thought and emotional depth. Matthew 22:37 captures this duality: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." The soul's capacity for reason and emotion guides our moral choices and reflects our deepest desires and affections.

Moral and Spiritual Insight: The soul is imbued with a profound sense of morality and spirituality. Romans 2:15 explains, "They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness." This inner sense of right and wrong drives our pursuit of ethical living and spiritual connection.

The Soul's Dynamic Functions

Core of Personal Identity: The soul is central to our personal identity, weaving together our thoughts, emotions, and will. Genesis 2:7 illustrates this: "The LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." This breath of life signifies the essence of our individuality.

Divine Connector: The soul serves as a conduit for divine engagement. Psalm 42:1-2 vividly portrays this connection: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." This longing highlights the soul's role in seeking and experiencing God's presence.

Agent of Transformation: The soul is capable of profound transformation through spiritual renewal. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reveals, "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory." This transformation reflects the soul's potential for spiritual growth and realignment with divine purposes.

Pursuer of Purpose: The soul is inherently driven toward fulfilling divine purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 states, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD." This orientation towards purpose reveals the soul's alignment with God's greater plan for our lives.

The Soul's Unique Attributes

Imago Dei: The soul mirrors the divine image, endowing us with unique attributes like reason, creativity, and relational depth. Genesis 1:27 affirms, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." This divine likeness underscores the soul's inherent value and potential.

Spiritual Capacity: The soul has a profound capacity for spiritual experiences and growth. Acts 17:28 reveals, "For in him we live and move and have our being." This capacity enables the soul to engage deeply with divine truths and cultivate a relationship with God.

Transformative Potential: The soul holds an extraordinary potential for transformation and renewal.

Romans 12:2 encourages, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” This potential illustrates how the soul can be reshaped to align with divine purposes.

The Anatomy of the Soul: Divine Structure and Function

Understanding the anatomy of the soul involves exploring its distinct components and their roles, as revealed in Scripture. This examination provides a deeper appreciation of how the soul functions and interacts with the divine.

Components of the Soul

The Heart: The heart represents the core of the soul, encompassing our emotions, desires, and will.

Proverbs 4:23 states, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” This central role signifies the heart’s influence over our actions and moral choices, reflecting our inner motivations and affections.

The Mind: The mind encompasses our rational thought processes and cognitive functions. Romans 12:2 underscores the importance of the mind in spiritual transformation: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” The mind’s role in aligning with divine truth and wisdom is crucial for spiritual growth.

The Conscience: The conscience acts as an inner guide for moral and spiritual discernment. Romans 2:15 reveals, “They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness.” The conscience serves as a moral compass, helping individuals navigate ethical and spiritual decisions.

The Will: The will represents the soul’s capacity for decision-making and action. James 1:14 explains, “But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.” The will’s role in choosing between good and evil highlights its significance in shaping our moral and spiritual trajectory.

Functionalities of the Soul

Moral Decision-Making: The soul, through its components, is engaged in making moral decisions. The interplay between the heart, mind, conscience, and will influences how we choose to live and align with divine principles. Proverbs 16:9 affirms, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.”

Spiritual Perception: The soul’s ability to perceive and engage with the divine is facilitated by its components. Ephesians 1:18 prays for “the eyes of your heart” to be enlightened, reflecting the soul’s capacity for spiritual insight and understanding. This perception enables us to grasp divine truths and experience spiritual growth.

Emotional Expression: The soul expresses emotions and desires through its various components. Psalm 42:11 captures this expression: “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?” The soul’s emotional landscape reflects our inner state and relationship with God, influencing how we respond to life’s challenges and joys.

Relational Dynamics: The soul’s components interact to form and maintain relationships with God,

others, and oneself. The heart's desires, the mind's understanding, the conscience's guidance, and the will's choices all contribute to the depth and quality of these relationships. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 emphasizes the value of relational connections, stating, "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

The Salvation of the Soul: A Path to Restoration and Renewal

The salvation of the soul represents a profound journey of transformation, addressing the estrangement caused by sin and guiding it toward complete restoration and fulfillment.

The Need for Redemption

Impact of the Fall: The Fall introduced sin and separation from God, affecting the soul's relationship with the divine. Genesis 3 recounts the disobedience of Adam and Eve, resulting in spiritual death and estrangement. Romans 5:12 articulates this impact: "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned."

Spiritual Estrangement: The estrangement caused by sin creates a deep separation between the soul and God. Isaiah 59:2 highlights this reality: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." This separation underscores the profound need for divine intervention and restoration.

Divine Provision for Salvation

Christ's Atonement: At the heart of salvation is Christ's atoning work. John 3:16 proclaims, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection offer redemption and reconciliation, addressing the soul's need for restoration.

Grace as a Gift: Salvation is a divine gift of grace, not earned through human effort. Ephesians 2:8-9 explains, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." This grace emphasizes the unearned nature of salvation and its foundation in divine love.

The Transformative Journey of Salvation

Regeneration and Renewal: Salvation involves the regeneration of the soul, transitioning from spiritual death to new life. John 3:5-6 illustrates this transformation: "Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.'" This new birth signifies a profound change in the soul's nature and purpose.

Sanctification and Growth: Sanctification is the ongoing process of spiritual refinement and growth. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 emphasizes this: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable." This process aligns the soul with God's holiness and divine purpose.

Empowerment for Mission: Salvation empowers the soul to fulfill its divine calling. Acts 1:8 states, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." This empowerment equips the soul to live out its purpose and contribute to God's mission.

Integration into the Body of Christ: Salvation unites the soul with the body of Christ, forming an integral

part of the church. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 describes this unity: “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” This unity highlights the soul’s role within the greater community of believers.

The Dynamics of the Mind: Thoughts, Perspectives, and Imagination in Shaping Reality

In the grand tapestry of human experience, the interplay between thoughts, perspectives, and imagination, and their influence on the body, soul, and faith is a profound and intricate reality. This exploration delves into how these cognitive and emotional processes, birthed in the womb of the soul—specifically the mind—affect our beliefs, manifest tangible realities, and shape our spiritual and physical existence.

The Womb of the Soul: The Mind

The Mind: Conduit of Thoughts and Perspectives

Central Role in Consciousness: The mind, as the core of the soul, functions as the seat of thoughts, perspectives, and opinions. Proverbs 23:7 notes, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” This highlights the mind’s power to shape identity and behavior through the nature of our thoughts and beliefs.

Forming Perspectives: Perspectives are formed through the mind’s interpretation of experiences and information. Romans 12:2 instructs, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” This underscores the transformative potential of renewing our perspectives according to divine truth.

The Impact of Thoughts on the Body and Spirit

Psychosomatic Connection: Thoughts can significantly influence physical health. Proverbs 17:22 states, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” This connection between emotional states and physical well-being highlights the body’s responsiveness to mental and emotional conditions.

Spiritual Resonance: The mind’s thoughts and perspectives also affect spiritual alignment. Colossians 3:2 exhorts, “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” This alignment with spiritual realities shapes our experience and manifestation of divine promises.

Imagination: The Creative Force Behind Faith and Belief

The Power of Imagination
Imaginative Capacity: Imagination is a powerful faculty within the mind that allows us to visualize and conceptualize realities beyond our immediate perception. Ephesians 3:20 affirms, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” This verse highlights the capacity of imagination to align with divine possibilities.

Faith and Manifestation: Imagination plays a crucial role in manifesting faith. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” The ability to imagine and envision these unseen realities contributes to the actualization of faith’s promises.

Shaping Belief Systems

Forming Beliefs: Belief systems are formed and reinforced through repeated thoughts and imaginative scenarios. Romans 10:17 states, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Engaging with divine truths through imagination and thought helps solidify and grow belief

systems.

Influence on Reality: Beliefs shaped by the mind and imagination influence our perception of reality and our actions within it. Proverbs 4:23 advises, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” This reflects how beliefs and thoughts, originating from the mind, impact our behavior and experience.

The Dynamics of Thought, Imagination, and Faith in Manifesting Reality Visualization and Realization

Visualizing Outcomes: The process of visualization, where the mind actively imagines desired outcomes, aligns with the concept of faith as a creative force. Mark 11:24 instructs, “Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Visualization and belief work together to bring forth tangible results.

Imaginative Faith: Engaging the imagination in faith practices involves picturing and emotionally experiencing the fulfillment of divine promises. This practice aligns with Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 17:20, where He says, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move.”

The Renewing of the Mind

Transformation through Renewal: Renewing the mind involves transforming thoughts and imagination to align with God’s truths. Romans 12:2 emphasizes, “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” This renewal process reshapes our belief systems and influences our spiritual and physical realities.

Aligning with Divine Imagination: Embracing God’s imagination and creative power involves aligning our thoughts with divine possibilities. Genesis 1:26 describes humanity being made in God’s image, reflecting the creative potential and imaginative capacity granted to us.

Practical Steps for Harnessing Thought and Imagination for Divine Manifestation

Cultivating Positive and Divine Thoughts

Mindful Reflection: Regularly engage in reflective practices that focus on divine promises and truths.

Philippians 4:8 advises, “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Affirmations and Declarations: Use affirmations that align with divine promises to reinforce positive thoughts and beliefs. Declarations based on Scripture can help shape reality and align the mind with God’s will.

Imaginative Prayer and Visualization

Prayerful Visualization: Incorporate visualization into prayer practices by imagining the fulfillment of God’s promises and envisioning desired outcomes. This practice helps anchor faith in tangible realities.

Creative Visualization: Engage in creative visualization exercises that align with God’s promises and purposes, allowing the imagination to participate in divine creativity.

Renewing and Transforming the Mind

Scriptural Meditation: Meditate on Scripture to renew the mind and transform thought patterns. Joshua 1:8 encourages, “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night.”

Aligning Thoughts with Divine Will: Regularly assess and realign thoughts and beliefs to reflect divine

truths and purposes, seeking transformation and renewal.

Active Faith and Expectation

Living in Expectancy: Cultivate a mindset of expectancy, believing in the manifestation of divine promises. Hebrews 11:1 emphasizes, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Acting on Belief: Take practical steps that reflect your faith and align with divine promises. James 2:17 states, “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

The Eternal Assurance of Salvation

Promise of Eternal Life: The assurance of eternal life is a central aspect of salvation. John 10:28-29 offers this promise: “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” This promise ensures the soul’s eternal security and fulfillment in God’s presence.

Living Hope and Fulfillment: Salvation instills a vibrant hope that transcends earthly existence. 1 Peter 1:3-4 declares, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” This hope reflects the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises and the soul’s eternal inheritance.

Transformation and Perfection: The ultimate promise of salvation involves the complete transformation and perfection of the soul. Philippians 3:20-21 highlights this: “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” This transformation signifies the soul’s final alignment with divine nature and purpose.

Eternal Union with God: The ultimate goal of salvation is an eternal union with God. Revelation 21:3-4 paints this vision: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” This eternal union represents the soul’s ultimate restoration and fulfillment in God’s presence.

Knowledge of God as Our Eternal Body

The concept that our knowledge of God shapes our eternal body reflects a profound spiritual truth about our eternal existence. This understanding, deeply rooted in Scripture, reveals how our relationship with God influences our eternal state.

The Transformative Power of Knowing God

Divine Revelation and Eternal Transformation: Knowing God transforms our being and prepares us for eternal life. 1 John 3:2 states, “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” This revelation of God’s nature results in a transformation that aligns us with Christ’s eternal glory.

Intimate Relationship and Eternal Identity: Our relationship with God shapes our eternal identity. John 17:3 emphasizes, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” This knowledge fosters a deep connection with God, defining our eternal state and

purpose.

The Scriptural Foundation for Eternal Body

Resurrection and Glorification: The knowledge of God leads to our resurrection and glorification. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 describes this transformation: “So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable...It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.” This glorification reflects the eternal nature of our relationship with God.

Eternal Inheritance and Fulfillment: Our knowledge of God secures our eternal inheritance. Colossians 1:12-13 affirms, “Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” This inheritance encompasses the eternal body and existence shaped by divine knowledge.

The Power of the Regenerated Soul and the Reality of Eternity

The regenerated soul, transformed by divine grace, embodies a powerful force capable of engaging with eternity. This transformative power reveals the soul’s capacity to embrace its eternal dimension.

The Regenerated Soul’s Power

Spiritual Renewal and Strength: The regenerated soul is empowered by spiritual renewal. Ephesians 4:23-24 instructs, “To be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be

like God in true righteousness and holiness.” This renewal infuses the soul with divine strength and purpose.

Victory Over Sin and Death: The regenerated soul experiences victory over sin and death. Romans 8:11 declares, “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” This victory signifies the soul’s liberation from the power of sin and its alignment with eternal life.

Eternity Within the Soul

Eternal Perspective and Hope: The regenerated soul embraces an eternal perspective and hope. 2

Corinthians 4:16-18 affirms, “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self

is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” This perspective aligns the soul with the eternal realities of God’s kingdom.

Participation in Eternal Life: The soul’s regeneration aligns it with eternal life. John 5:24 states, “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” This participation underscores the soul’s integration into the eternal dimension of God’s existence.

The Divine Anatomy of the Body: Exploring External and Internal Symbolism, Spiritual Significance, and the Power of Glorification

The human body, as a masterpiece of divine craftsmanship, is imbued with profound spiritual significance and symbolic meaning. This comprehensive examination of the body’s anatomy reveals its

external and internal components, prophetic symbolism, and spiritual relevance. Moreover, it explores the transformative potential of the glorified spirit and soul, demonstrating how they can recreate and renew the body, offering a glimpse of eternal life in the present.

External Anatomy and Symbolism

Head: The Seat of Authority and Knowledge

Authority: The head symbolizes divine authority and leadership. As Ephesians 1:22 declares, “And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,” it represents Christ’s supreme governance and oversight over creation and the church.

Wisdom: Housing the brain, the head is central to wisdom and understanding. Proverbs 2:6 reveals, “For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” This underscores the brain’s role in processing divine insight and guiding our actions.

Eyes: The Organs of Perception and Insight

Spiritual Vision: Eyes symbolize spiritual clarity. Matthew 6:22-23 highlights, “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.” This emphasizes the role of spiritual perception in illuminating our lives.

Revelation: Ephesians 1:18 prays for “the eyes of your heart to be enlightened,” illustrating how divine revelation enhances our understanding and guides our spiritual journey.

Ears: The Instruments of Hearing and Obedience

Hearing God’s Voice: Ears are vital for receiving divine messages. Romans 10:17 states, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” This emphasizes the importance of listening to God’s word.

Obedience: James 1:19 advises, “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,” highlighting the necessity of receptiveness to divine guidance.

Mouth: The Expression of Speech and Worship

Proclamation: The mouth is essential for expressing faith and engaging in worship. Psalm 119:172 says, “May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.” This demonstrates the mouth’s role in declaring God’s truth and participating in praise.

Power of Words: Proverbs 18:21 notes, “The tongue has the power of life and death,” underscoring the impact of our words on reality and relationships.

Hands: The Instruments of Work and Service

Action and Service: Hands represent action and service. Colossians 3:23 encourages, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.” This highlights the hands’ role in meaningful labor and service to God.

Healing and Blessing: Mark 16:18 illustrates how hands are used to convey healing and divine blessing, emphasizing their role in spiritual ministry.

Feet: The Pathways of Guidance and Mission

Guidance: Feet symbolize divine direction. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path,” reflecting the importance of seeking divine guidance.

Mission: Feet also represent the mission to spread the gospel. Romans 10:15 proclaims, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” This underscores the role of feet in advancing God’s kingdom.

Internal Anatomy and Symbolism

Heart: The Center of Emotions and Spiritual Life

Emotional and Moral Center: The heart is central to emotions and moral decisions. Proverbs 4:23 advises, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” This highlights the heart’s influence on our emotional and moral life.

Divine Connection: Ezekiel 36:26 speaks of receiving a new heart, symbolizing spiritual renewal and alignment with God’s will.

Liver: The Purifier and Detoxifier

Symbol of Purification: The liver’s role in detoxifying the body mirrors the need for spiritual cleansing. Isaiah 1:16-17 urges, “Wash and make yourselves clean,” reflecting the process of moral and spiritual purification.

Renewal and Transformation: Just as the liver cleanses, spiritual renewal involves aligning with divine righteousness, symbolizing the need for continuous purification.

Kidneys: The Seat of Consciousness and Introspection

Spiritual Insight: Kidneys are associated with introspection and consciousness. Psalm 16:7 says, “I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.” This reflects the kidneys’ role in guiding inner thoughts and reflections.

Divine Guidance: Proverbs 20:27 describes the human spirit as “the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one’s inmost being,” illustrating the role of kidneys in spiritual discernment.

Lungs: The Breath of Life and Worship

Breath of Life: Lungs symbolize the divine breath that imparts life. Genesis 2:7 notes, “The LORD God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” This emphasizes the divine act of giving life.

Worship and Praise: Psalm 150:6 calls for praise from all who have breath, reflecting the role of lungs in worship and glorifying God.

Stomach: The Digestive System and Spiritual Nourishment

Digestive Function: The stomach’s role in digestion symbolizes spiritual nourishment. Matthew 4:4 emphasizes, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” This illustrates the need for spiritual sustenance.

Spiritual Sustenance: Just as the stomach processes food, the soul processes spiritual nourishment, highlighting the importance of divine input in our spiritual growth.

The Glorified Body and Its Divine Image

The Glorified Body: Reflecting the Divine Image

Transformation into Glory: The glorified body represents the ultimate expression of the divine image. 1 Corinthians 15:52-53 promises a transformation from earthly limitations to an imperishable form, reflecting divine glory.

Unity with Christ: Philippians 3:21 describes how Christ will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body, signifying our alignment with the divine image and participation in Christ’s resurrection glory.

The Body as a Housing of Divinity: Connecting Realms

Temple of the Holy Spirit: The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, signifying its sacredness. 1 Corinthians 6:19 affirms, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you?” This highlights the body’s role in housing divine presence.

Connecting Realms: The body serves as a bridge between physical and spiritual realms, facilitating divine interactions and transcending earthly limitations.

The Body of Christ: An Altar for Divine Manifestation

Transfiguration and Sacred Encounter: The body of Christ was transfigured to host Elijah and Moses, illustrating its role as an altar for divine manifestations. Matthew 17:1-3 recounts this event, showcasing the body's sacred and transformative capacity.

Divine Hosting: This event symbolizes how the glorified body can host divine encounters and serve as a vessel for revealing God's purposes.

The Power of the Glorified Spirit and Soul: Recreating the Body for Eternal Experience The Glorified Spirit: Empowering Divine Transformation

Divine Energy and Authority: The glorified spirit wields divine energy through its union with Christ's resurrection power. Ephesians 1:19-20 speaks of "the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe," enabling the spirit to infuse vitality into every aspect of life.

Recreation and Renewal: Romans 8:11 affirms, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." This resurrection power is at work in the physical body, enabling regeneration.

The Glorified Soul: Facilitating Eternal Transformation

Soul's Role in Transformation: The glorified soul reflects divine glory and impacts the physical realm. 2 Corinthians 3:18 reveals, "We are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another." This transformative process affects the body, aligning it with eternal realities.

Living in Eternity Now: John 17:3 defines eternal life as "knowing you, the only true God." This intimate knowledge and relationship with God, facilitated by the glorified soul, brings the body into alignment with eternal principles.

Pathway to Eternal Experience: Achieving the Glorified State

Cultivating a Deep Relationship with God

Intimacy with the Divine: Develop a deep, personal relationship with God through prayer, meditation, and worship. James 4:8 promises, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

Living in the Spirit: Galatians 5:16 advises, "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Engage in spiritual disciplines to align with divine will.

Renewing the Mind and Heart

Transformation through Renewal: Romans 12:2 emphasizes, "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." Align your thoughts and attitudes with divine truth.

Heart Transformation: Ezekiel 36:26 speaks of receiving a new heart, symbolizing spiritual renewal.

Embracing the Power of the Holy Spirit

Empowerment for Renewal: Acts 1:8 declares, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Embrace the Holy Spirit's empowerment for transformation.

Manifestation of Gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 details spiritual gifts for divine work, allowing active participation in renewal and transformation.

Activating Faith and Expectancy

Living by Faith: Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "the assurance of things hoped for." Believe in the transformative power of the glorified spirit and soul.

Expectant Living: 1 John 3:2 promises, "When he appears we shall be like him." Anticipate the realization of your glorified state.

Engaging in the Ministry of Healing and Renewal

Spiritual Healing: James 5:14-15 highlights prayer for healing, reflecting divine intervention in renewing the body.

Agents of Renewal: 2 Corinthians 5:18 describes believers as “ministers of reconciliation.” Engage in acts of service and healing to reflect transformative power.

Conclusion

Embracing Eternal Salvation for Spirit, Soul, and Body

As we reach the culmination of our exploration into the eternal salvation of spirit, soul, and body, we stand on the threshold of profound revelation and transformative truth. Our journey has illuminated the intricate connections between these three dimensions of our being, each integral to our understanding of divine redemption and holistic well-being.

Spirit, the divine spark within us, has been shown to be our eternal link to the divine. Through salvation, our spirit is renewed and sanctified, reconnecting us with the divine essence and securing our place in the eternal kingdom. The restoration of the spirit is not merely a future hope but a present reality that empowers us to live out our divine purpose and embrace the fullness of God's grace.

Soul, the seat of our emotions, thoughts, and identity, experiences a profound transformation through salvation. The healing and renewal of the soul encompass the healing of past wounds, the mending of brokenness, and the

liberation from the burdens of sin. As our soul is transformed, we find a new depth of peace, joy, and clarity, enabling us to navigate life with a renewed sense of purpose and wholeness.

Body, our physical vessel, is also touched by the promise of salvation. Though the body is subject to the ravages of time and decay, the promise of eternal salvation extends to a future where we are promised a glorified, incorruptible body. In this hope, we find encouragement to care for our physical health as an expression of our gratitude and reverence for the divine gift of life.

The eternal salvation of spirit, soul, and body is a comprehensive and harmonious promise that encompasses every aspect of our being. It assures us of a future where we will be fully restored and redeemed, and it calls us to live in the light of this truth today. Our salvation is not a distant aspiration but an active reality that shapes our daily lives and empowers us to reflect the divine love and grace in every dimension of our existence.

As we embrace this holistic salvation, we are invited to live with a renewed sense of purpose, embodying the transformative power of God's redemptive work. May we continually seek to align our spirit, soul, and body with the divine will, experiencing the fullness of life that salvation offers. In doing so, we honor the profound reality of our eternal redemption and celebrate the eternal grace that has restored us to wholeness in every aspect of our being.