

**Releasing the Presence
of God
In Your Life
and In Your Church**

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Releasing the Presence

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Introduction

I have written several books. Few have felt as important as this one. It was as if God wanted me to write this to draw His people into His presence. He longs to cover us with the shadow of His wings, to shadow us with His presence. He longs for us to draw near to Him. There are things that we must do to allow His presence, His Holy Ghost, to move freely in our lives. We literally have to release the presence of God. Not only do we have to release the presence of God in our day-to-day lives, but also in our church services. So many times today our churches are empty of the Holy Ghost. The people worship in a form and fashion, a touch of the Word is given with no anointing. Everybody goes home no different than they came. They are still carrying their grief, sicknesses, bondages, and fears. How do we come to the place that we have the presence of God in His house? We need salvation, deliverance, peace and His overcoming power now more than ever before. Without the presence of God moving freely in our lives and in our churches, we are bound and Satan often is allowed to have control. We lack victory and we wonder why. We know we should have more joy, and see God at work in our lives. We try so hard to get Him to bless us and what we do, but it seems as if He doesn't. Sometimes we may even quit trying. We fail to realize that there are areas in our life where we are actually blocking the presence of God from moving.

It is my prayer that through this book you find the keys to releasing the presence of God in your life. God wants to draw you into His presence. He wants to bless your life with His Spirit. He wants to so badly that He sent His Son to die to bring this about. The Word of God tells us that He wants us to be filled with Him so that we not only are victorious, but are a powerhouse for Him.

This book is simply a scriptural formula to release the presence of God in our lives and in our churches. Let God draw you to Himself. Learn to release the presence of God in your life.

Step 1.
Have a Relationship with God

I can remember when I was first saved, I had a picture of God as being way up in the heavens, not having much to do with us poor people down here. As I grew to know His Word, I found that isn't true at all. As I grew to know Him and received His love, I knew that His love is very personal, even more personal than we as humans can understand. I knew as a young Christian that Jesus died for my sins, but I didn't know how personal that was. I knew He came into our hearts when we were saved, but thought that was just more or less a figure of speech. God, Jesus and the Holy Ghost were all at a distant from my life.

I began to read scripture about the closeness of God and His relationship with us. My favorite passage even now is Jesus' Words in John 17. Jesus is praying to His Father not long before His death. In verse 20-26 He not only is praying for those disciples with Him, but also those that would believe in Him through their Word. That means us. Here is part of that scripture. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." I began to understand through these Words how close God wants to be to all His children. Jesus loves us with the love He has for His Father, Who loves us with the love He has for His Son. Both want the same oneness with us that they have with one another. That doesn't sound like an impersonal kind of God to me. They love you and want to be one with you in a very personal way.

As a young Christian I had not learned to see salvation as personal. I knew Jesus died on the cross for the whole world, but the fact that His sacrifice was personal to me, I couldn't at first see. I was just a micro part of the whole world. Someone helped me to see this clearer when they told me that if I would have been the only one, He would have died just for me. Also, the punishment for my sins was part of the pain that He carried on the cross. My own sins were part of the reason He died. Sure He died for the sins of the whole world, but no less is the fact that He died just for you.

He knows you like no one else can. Why? He lives on the inside of your heart. God had a personal plan for His Spirit to be able to dwell intimately with each of us. He didn't just have a forgiving plan, but a plan where His Holy Ghost could personally be in your heart to help you work out your salvation. I remember a student who had not been around teaching about salvation before he came to our school. He wasn't sure how it worked but he believed and gave his heart to the Lord. Not long after he was saved someone made him angry. Now up to that time he had a really bad temper. I watched anger

cross his face, then a blank look of surprise. He came to me later so excited. He said, "Now I know God's in me." The Lord had actually taken his anger away from the inside of his heart. It was a lesson he would never forget.

Jesus doesn't save us to let us go. He saves us to come inside our hearts and live, to help us overcome our flesh, sin, and the world. How much more personal can you get? When we finally see that God is a personal God, we understand that we can have a real, up-close and personal relationship with God. God's presence can begin to be released fuller in our lives. The closer we get to Him the more He is reflected in us. The closer we get, the more His presence is released in our lives. The closer we get the easier it is to serve Him, and continually walk in His wonderful presence.

When we follow Him from far off, we aren't close enough for His love to take away our fears. We aren't close enough to trust Him. I John 4:18 tells us, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear..." Galatians 5:6 tells us, "...faith which worketh by love". If we aren't up close and personal, we aren't close enough for our faith to be strong. We aren't close enough to overcome our self-will and rebellion to obey Him. Obedience keeps us out of trouble. We need to draw near to Him to be able to hear His voice and obey Him. Here are some verses that promise what will happen in our lives if we draw near: Psalm 73:28, Psalm 119: 151, Isaiah 51:3, Jeremiah 30:21 Hebrews 2:9-18, Hebrews 8:10. Read these. Remember, it won't do any good for you just to read the reference here in this book. Get out your Bibles and look these up.

I used to wonder a lot why, if God is no respecter of persons, some people seemed to have more of His blessings, anointing, gifts and talents, and more of His favor than others do. I asked God why? He showed me that His love is the same for us all, but some have found more of it. I asked Him how. He showed me this simple little scene that illustrated so much. I saw a circle of children. Jesus was in the center of the circle. Some were gathered right around Him, as close as they could be. Around that circle was another ring of children, then another, so forth and so on. I thought to myself why did He gather that one circle closer to Himself and not the others? Why was He partial to them? Then God showed me the attitudes and faces of the children. He showed me last the ring of children that were closest to Him. He showed me first the ring of children who were second from Him. They looked on Him and the ring of children that were closest to Him with longing. You could feel their desire to run to Him, but they were afraid to. They were afraid He might reject them, because others had rejected them. They were afraid He wouldn't love them as much as He loved the ones closest to Him. Some were condemned from past sins. Others were beaten down by satan. Jesus would glance longingly at them, but God loves us and draws us to Himself, but we are the ones that have to come forward. He cannot go against our free will.

His love was as great and true for them all. He would in a minute have wrapped them all in His arms, but they wouldn't come closer. They wouldn't receive.

The next row of children further away looked at Jesus with longing, but more than they looked at Him, they looked at the other children. They wanted to be a part of the children more than a part of Jesus' love. They couldn't press on past those others to run to Him. They did this or that to get the other children to notice them, not to get Jesus to see them. They soon became jealous and full of envy because Jesus didn't accept them like the others. That wasn't being fair to them, they would say. They wanted the gifts and attention, but they wouldn't do what they needed to do to get it. Some of them had in their hands weights that weighed them down so that they could hardly move closer. These weights were the world, sin, fear and doubt, and habits that they were bound by. Because of these they were not close enough to see Jesus' love. If they would only have set the weights down, they could have moved closer. God can't take these things away from us. We have to lay them down and give them to Him. Many would eventually give up trying to move up and move back instead of forward.

The next ring of children further back was looking at what was all around them, instead of looking at Jesus. They glanced at Him, but were infatuated with everything else and distracted from Him. They looked at the world and were eventually drawn by it away from even glancing at Jesus. They looked at their circumstances and eventually, because they weren't wrapped in His love, fear and doubt caused them to drift away. Some in this group wanted some of the time to be a part of Jesus' love, but they didn't want to do what the others there were doing. They wanted to do their own thing their own way, so they did just that. This got them further away. Disobedience and self-will can cost us God's love.

Then God showed me the circle of children closest to Jesus. They sat with their hearts and minds riveted to every Word He said. They wanted to please Him in every detail; they loved Him so much. They were full of joy because He was happy with them. There was a glow coming out from Jesus. His love was so bright it glowed. Those children closest to Him were wrapped in this glow. Jesus was passing gifts to those around Him, gifts like: talents, anointing, spiritual and physical blessings. The children were anxiously receiving them. The last and most precious gift He gave them was eternal life with Him, the One they loved and desired to follow with all their heart.

God showed me that sometimes some of the children in the outside circles would break away and move up a ring. Sometimes they would get all the way to the circle closest to Jesus. Many never made it. Those that were able to, when they struggled and broke through to Him, were made very

welcome by the One Who honored their struggle. Jesus' love was the same. It was the same for them all, but only those that pressed closest to Him received it in the fullest measure. Only those closest in the circle around Him received His gifts, because they were the ones who reached for them, trusting Him to give them to them.

What is our part? Press on closer. Don't put your eyes on the others around you or on the world or its circumstances. Don't get caught up in anything or anyone that will hold you back from drawing nearer to Him. Give up your way and your will so that you can do what He wants you to do. Give up your sin. Let Him convict you. Be willing to give it all up for Him. Give up those habits that bind you. Anything that is addicting is sent by the devil, and his purpose is to drive a wedge between you and God's love. Give up your will and your way. His way is so much better than ours. Ours can only eventually destroy us. Let God love you. Let His love consume you and draw you into full commitment and obedience to Him. Let His presence begin to be released in your life. You will never be the same.

If you are a pastor or a teacher, don't try to lead others into this kind of victory if you don't have it yourself. You will only fail. Are there things in your life that you need to give up, things you need to commit? Are you stubbornly holding on to your will instead of doing what God wants you to do, His way? If you are, then it won't work, your ministry will fail, and you will eventually lose the respect of those around you. I heard someone make the statement that they were going to do it their way, and if God didn't want that, He would just have to put up with it. This was a pastor, and an overseer of a ministry. Today his ministry is almost nonexistent. It has been a series of messes where he consistently missed God. He is in poor health. His family has been through disasters. His financial state is unfixable. He still is doing his own thing his way. How sad. Get real with your own relationship before you try to lead others. Take to heart the scripture, Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." If you have found that your relationship is not where it should be, go to God. Don't run from Him. Let Him renew and restore you. Don't play games. get real. The scriptures promise over and over that if we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. For real.

Step 2.
Have an Identity
Know Who You Are In God

To release the presence of God in your life, it is essential that you have a relationship with God in a personal way. It is also essential that you have an identity in that relationship. You must know who you are in Christ. The Word of God tells us who we are. Romans 8:16-17 says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." These verses may not agree with who we feel like or who we think we are. Nevertheless, they are who we are. When we begin to see ourselves in the way God sees us as according to His Word, it will change our lives.

We have to take God at His Word. From receiving salvation on, we live by faith in God's Word. One of the hardest areas to believe His Word is in our concept of who we are, our self-identity. From the time we are small we live in a world controlled by a devil that does not want us to have an identity. We are attacked by people, circumstances and by countless battles that cause us to see ourselves in a negative way. Do you know more people that think they are really great, or more that see themselves as someone almost not worthy of God's love and grace? We are taught to hold on to our identity. We are taught to pump ourselves up to be able to believe in who we are and our abilities. Then along comes a trial that wipes us out. We need to learn that we are built on the rock and that rock is Christ Jesus. (I Peter 2:6-7, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious... the same is made the head of the corner.") That rock is not our selves. We are a part of the building founded on that chief cornerstone. We no longer have to flounder in the sea trying to keep our identities and self-images above water. We need to learn to lose ourselves in God. We need to take our identity in His Word. We need to submit and commit ourselves totally to Him, and let His Spirit have control inside of us. We need to stop trying to do our best and release ourselves to Him and let Him do His best inside of us. We need to forget ourselves and take on His likeness. We need to literally be overshadowed by Him. When we lose our identity in Him then we know who we really are.

We are conditioned to hold on to our self. "Don't let any one take your identity away", the world preaches. But until we let go of ourselves we will never find out who we really are. God didn't create us to prove how wonderful we can be. He didn't create us to be all we are and stubbornly hold on to that. He created us to become all He is. The presence of Jesus is so powerful.

It is so powerful that the more we are with Him the more like Him we will become. The Bible tells us that on the day that we see Him, we will actually be like Him. (I John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.") The more we read His Word, spend time in fellowship with Him, submit, obey Him, and let the Holy Ghost control our thoughts and feelings from the inside of us, the more we will become like Him. When we lose our identity in Jesus and His Word, then how can our self-image be shattered? How can satan attack us and make us think we are just failures? We know where we stand in His Word. Our identity belongs to God.

Obedience sharpens this identity. When we become obedient to God's voice and submit to His leading, He will begin to use us. We become a part of what He is doing. As we flow in Him, doing what He leads us to do, we begin to be a part of those around us that are doing the same. Because we have an identity with God, we become a part of others who have done the same. His love draws us together. We begin to have an identity with those around us that are His genuine kids. This strengthens who we are. The devil can't come along and say, "Hey, you are nobody going nowhere and being and doing nothing." We know better. He can't say, "You are alone. You have no one." We know better. We know who we are, where we are headed, and what we are doing. This doesn't mean we are perfect and won't mess up. We will still be human and that spells a mess in any language. But we have a whole lot more going for us to help us out than we did when we were out on our own.

You have an identity in God. You are someone special to Him. When you know that beyond a doubt, His presence will be released in your life. Self-pity, fear, doubt, and other things won't bind you. You will be able to say like Paul, "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." (II Timothy 1:12). Find your identity in Christ. Go to God's Word. Obey Him. Submit and release yourself to His Spirit. Allow His people to love you. You will find His presence growing more real day-by-day.

As a church, a body, we also need to have an identity. We need to seek God's face, find our place in Him. Part of this comes when we seek a vision, or purpose. A church needs a purpose to grow. Even God's Word teaches that without a vision we will perish. We aren't set up as the body of Christ for the purpose of having bake sales, yard sales, making money to pay the bills. We aren't the body of Christ for the purpose of watching the Pastor and a few in the church do all the work. As a body of Christ our purpose is found in the Word of God. One purpose according to Acts was established from the beginning of the early church. That is for the salvation of souls. This is found in Acts 2:47, "...and the Lord added to the church daily such as

should be saved.” This is to be done through the love mentioned in I Corinthians 13. If you read the closing part of Chapter 12 you will find that the love mentioned in I Corinthians 13 is for the church. We are to have this love also to become united as the body of Christ (I Corinthians 10:17 “For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”)

Another purpose of the church is to bring forth the Word of God in the fullness of His truth. Through the foolishness of preaching men are to be saved and this is in part the responsibility of the church. (I Corinthians 1:17-18, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”) We are to share Christ in that love, ably ministering God’s Spirit as well as His Word. I Corinthians Chapter 14 tells how we are to have prayer, prophesying, and tongues in God’s order in His house to minister to His people. There are to be spiritual jobs or offices being done in Romans 12:6-8. “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

There are to be gifts that are ministering to God’s people through God’s people. I Corinthians 12:8 tells us, “For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues”. This is not just a picture of a New Testament Church. It is also the commandment for us today. It is how God intended His church to be. Sad to say few churches today are meeting the scriptural formulae. They are empty of God’s presence and usually empty of people as well. If there has ever been a time that God’s church needed to arise and be what God intended for it to be, it is now. Arise. Purpose in your hearts to be the body that God intended. Go forth in His Word. Go forth in His name. Keep His Word in your midst. There are enough churches that are playing church. Become one for real. Let that be your vision. Find out your purpose as a body of believers and obey that vision that God gives you. Find your identity in God’s Word. Let God’s presence be loosed in your midst.

Step 3. *Obedience*

When I was little, I had a pretty good relationship with my Mom. I did, that is, until I messed up and did something she wouldn't approve of. I would start feeling bad even if I thought that there was no way that she could find out about it. I would remember all the other times she had found out, and it left me sweating. There was a barrier that had come between us—my guilt. When we don't live in obedience to God's Spirit and to His Word, it leaves that same barrier. God is love and He longs to love us. We have to begin to obey Him to fully find His love. If we don't live in obedience to God, we will have our guilt that separates us from His presence. Yes, we can go to Him freely for forgiveness. I always knew that I might get in trouble with my Mom when she found out the wrong I had done, but I knew she would forgive me and love me all the same. God's forgiveness is no less. Jesus died to get rid of that barrier of guilt. But, just like with my Mom, we have to repent. She had to know that I was genuinely 100% sorry and wouldn't do it again. Asking for forgiveness is not the same thing as repenting. Repenting is defined as being heart sorry for the wrong you have done and determined not to do it again. Repentance means we are so sorry for our wrongdoing that we purpose in our heart, with the help of God's guidance, Spirit, Word, and power, never to do that again. Repentance doesn't mean we do what we do, ask forgiveness, do it again and lightly say, "Oh no God, here I am again." Then we turn around and do the same thing again. When we do this we are proving that we do not have a relationship with God at all. When we know the depth of His love for us, it tears our heart to think that we have failed Him. Never would we ever take lightly the wrong we do before Him. If we never admit our sin, let alone confess and truly repent, or if we excuse it away and take it lightly, what happens to the presence of God in our lives? It may eventually be stopped forever. (1 Peter 4:17—"For the time is come that judgment must first begin at the house of God and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?")

I see so many who aren't obeying God. Basically they are doing their own thing. There are many who are bound from being able to serve God. Some are bound in fear so that they can't obey. Some are bound in confusion to God's Word and what He wants. Some are bound in habits and lusts they can't get free from. When we aren't obeying God we know it. We may not always see it because we don't want to, but deep down inside we know. Knowing and not fixing it can cause us to become contrary to God's Spirit. We begin to go opposite of the direction God leads and often do not even realize what we are doing. This can bring sure destruction. Seek God with all your heart. God will deliver you to be able to be obedient. My prayer is that this

chapter releases obedience in the hearts of God's people.

To be able to obey you must find God's love and know your place in that. You have to find your relationship with Him. You have to find your purpose. When you do these things obedience comes easier. You also have to have God's will above your own in your life. To do this, you have to allow Him to break your will and mold you. This isn't easy. It is against your human nature. We want to be in control. We have to be broken so that we accept God's will above our own. Obedience isn't a once in a while thing, it is a condition of our heart. It is a way of life. It is a change in us that only God can bring about. Obedience unlocks the presence of God in our lives. It is essential in being able to follow God's will, walk in His footsteps and live consistently in His joy and peace.

Many today obey God and cherish the feeling it brings when they know He is pleased with them. They consider it a wonderful, once in a while experience. They don't realize that they should have that joy every day. God's love can only be felt in its richness and wonder when we are obedient children. Jeremiah 7:23 tells us, "But this thing commanded I them saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."

His will is a supernatural path that He has laid out before us. Very few times will we actually know which way to go in our lives without His divine guidance. Even the wisest are often caught in circumstances they can't see. God in His everlasting wisdom knows how to guide us. We have to listen and yield to Him. His Word is full of promises for a long and satisfied life. It has in its pages keys that can cause blessings to flow. Only complete obedience can unlock the flow of God's Spirit and blessings to move completely in our lives. Here are some examples that show how obedience unlocks God's presence.

One of the first instances of obedience recorded in the New Testament was that of the disciples. Matthew 4:18 tells how Jesus saw two fishermen, Simon Peter, and Andrew, his brother. They were doing what they had probably done most of their lives and what they thought they would be doing for the rest of it. They were fishing. Jesus called to them and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Verse 20 tells us that straightway they left and followed Him. All their lives before that, all they owned, all they knew, they walked away from and followed Him. His presence changed their lives from that moment until their death and beyond. What would have happened if they hadn't felt at that time like going anywhere? What would have happened if they had wanted to hold onto things or people in their lives? How different their lives would have been. They would have lived and died being nothing more than fishermen. Their one act of obedience unlocked Jesus' presence in their lives. We know their influence. Thousands of years later their story

touches our lives. Obedience unlocked God's presence and their lives were changed. It isn't a mystery that the first act of obedience recorded also records one of the first miracles. Luke 5:5-6 tells us the rest of that story. Jesus told them to launch their nets out into the deep. They had already fished all night and caught nothing. They knew there was nothing there. When they obeyed in spite of what they knew in the natural, their nets came up so full that they broke. This was to remind them that later, when they became fishers of men, if they obeyed, their nets would be full to overflowing. Obedience looses the supernatural miracle-working presence of God in our lives.

Obedience can change our lives. Obedience is likened in Matthew 7:24 to the man who built his house on the rock. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." When the waves and storms of his life crushed against him, his house stood firm. If you want God's presence to help you overcome the storms of your life, you must be obedient. He will be there for you. He will be your strong and mighty tower, your fortress. If you will walk under the shadow of His wings, He will shelter you. He longs to walk with you. He longs to shield you and guide you. Only by walking with Him in the same direction that He is going, can this happen. Only by walking in His footsteps in obedience to His Word and to His Spirit leading you can you find this wonderful place in Him. Adam and Eve walked with oneness with God in the wonderful way He intended us to. When they disobeyed, they broke fellowship with Him. Let Him draw you into obedience and back into that fellowship with Him. You can rest in His presence. He doesn't ask us to be perfect, but He asks us to let Him perfect Himself in us. Obedience is one of the ways He will do this. He will lead you into circumstances that will prove His Word in your heart. He will lead you in places that will strengthen you and restore your faith. Only when you obey Him can He lead you.

It is important for a church as a whole body of believers to be obedient to God, to release His presence in their midst. God does not honor disobedience. If a church is caught in a ritual, in a form or fashion, not in a listening, obedient relationship with God, the body of believers are walking in disobedience. What is God's plan for your congregation? Is your church day-by-day, service-to-service, in God's will? God wants to pour out His blessing and anointing on His people. So often He cannot because they are far from Him and are not obeying His Word. He wants to come in and bring His deliverance, salvation, healing, strength, joy, and peace. But He cannot honor disobedience. There is a verse that gives us the formulae for a church. II Chronicles 7:14 tells us, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their

land.” Can you imagine what would happen if God’s church followed this formulae?

As a body of believers we need to unite in unity. We need to commit and submit to God, obey His Word, and His voice. Then we will see our temple filled with His wonderful presence. He will come and heal our land. We always blame the condition of our country on politicians. Do you know who it was that gave all the power to the politicians and to the government? It was the church. The church lost its victory. Then the people lost the victory. If we as Christians, as the church, had united and made a stand, we would still have many of the freedoms that we have lost. We would still have a God fearing nation. When we compromised to the devil and lost the power of God in our churches, is it no wonder that we stopped being the light of the world? The only way that God will come heal our land is if He hears us from heaven. We no longer pray and intercede. We no longer cry out to God. We need to get obedient in our churches and let God lead us. We need to release His presence in our midst.

Step 4. ***Sanctify Yourself***

To sanctify is defined as being to make holy, pure, and set aside for a specific use. The first time the Word sanctify is mentioned in the Bible is found in Genesis 2:3. God sanctified the Sabbath. He set it aside for Himself to be kept holy and dedicated to Him. That's what sanctify means, to be set aside and kept holy for God's use. God then commanded in Leviticus 8:10, "And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them." The priests and the tabernacle were to be sanctified. When they were, He filled them with His presence. He made them Holy. What does it mean to be sanctified? In Malachi 3:3, Jesus is referred to as being our sanctifier. "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." The priests had to be cleansed from impurities and set-aside from the world. They had to come apart from the rest of the congregation, dedicate themselves solely to God's service. God honored this and anointed them. The anointing in His temple or tabernacle was so strong it was seen like a cloud or smoke. His presence filled His house. We need to purify our house, our temple, our bodies today and set them aside for God's service.

For God's presence to fill your temple you have to set yourself aside. You have to repent and confess your sins and come clean with God. That isn't easy to do. We think if we aren't drinking, smoking, and carousing around, we aren't sinning. Guess again. Attitudes are as bad and as damaging to our soul as drugs and illicit sex. Rebellion, stubbornness, lack of submission, bitterness, jealousy, and on and on goes the list of sins. Fears, doubt, not trusting God are on it too. We have to go to God with a sincere heart and realize that none are perfect no not one. Luke 18:19 tells us, "... none is good, save one, that is, God." We have to ask Him to show us what is wrong in our hearts and ask Him to help us change. We have to repent. He can show us what is wrong and through the power of His Holy Ghost and His Word fix it from the inside of us if we submit and commit it to Him. In II Timothy 1:12 we read, "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." We need to admit our sins, ask God to show them to us, and commit them to Him. Then He can keep it. Then we need to purpose in our heart not to sin. Not only do our emotions need to be fixed, but also our thoughts. How we think needs to be cleaned up. Having negative and doubtful thinking is a sin. There are other ways of thinking that can lead us to hell. We have to let God clean these things out of our minds.

This is the beginning of the process of sanctification. Sanctifying is a

daily process. Daily we will need to come to Him and ask Him to make us to be more like Him. That day that we see Him we will finally be like Him. Until then we are a work in progress. Through this sanctifying process we release His presence more and more in our lives. Keeping your flesh under subjection and letting God rule your life is the only way you can stay sanctified. You have to choose to do this. God won't do it for you. You have to make up your mind this **is** what you want. I see so many that can't get victory over sin in their life even after they have the knowledge they need to be able to keep the victory. When I see this I know that there is a part of them that doesn't want to win over it.

As a church we can also set ourselves aside to be sanctified. This comes through unity and prayer, and sincerely desiring our body of believers to be set aside for God's purpose. In Joshua chapter 7 Joshua lost a battle. What was so unusual about this? Israel had up to this time seen many battles with many victories. They had never lost up to this time. When Joshua sought God's face to find out why they had lost, God showed Him that there was sin in the camp. If God's presence has left your church, it may be because there is unconfessed, unrepented sin in your midst. It must be brought to light in God's love and wisdom and dealt with for God's presence to return. Too many times today's church leaders don't want to "rock the boat". They don't want to step on toes. They walk all around the truth in their sermons. The Word isn't preached for real. It loses its conviction power. People don't repent. Sin begins to rule the house of God. God's presence leaves. We have to have a sanctified house for the Holy Ghost of God to dwell in.

God's presence will convict, deliver, heal, and set free. God's presence brings power to His Word and strength to His people. For His Word to come to His people it has to be by the power of His Spirit. II Corinthians 3:6 tells us, "...the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." This means that if man gives his interpretation of God's Word it could destroy the spirits of those that hear. If God anoints the speaker and the Words come from Him, it will bring eternal life. We need the presence of God in our churches to bring us life. We need to sanctify God's house. We need to let His Spirit chase out the things that come in to make His house not to be holy. We need to open it up to be filled with His presence.

Step 5. Set Aside

II Corinthians 6:17 tells us, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” It tells us to separate ourselves and walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh like others around us that aren’t totally serving God. Matthew 7:14 tells us, “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” The crowd is not going to heaven. Dedicating yourself to God is not the popular thing to do. You can’t do what everybody is doing and find eternal life. In anything we do, what we put into it is what we will get out of it. If we halfway do anything, halfway is where we will wind up. God is not a halfway God. Nor can we only halfway get to heaven. He tells us to either be cold or hot. Revelations 3:15-16 tells us, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Another way to put it, lukewarm, halfway, halfhearted people make God sick. It makes Him puke. He can have no part of those who are lukewarm. They will spue out of Him. The scary thing about all this is everywhere I go I see lukewarm, halfway Christians. They think they are OK. They dress like the world, sound like the world, walk and talk like the world, smoke like the world, read the world’s junk, listen to the world’s music, read the world’s message, watch the world in it’s worst on TV. Then they go to church on Sunday and talk about how they are sold out to Jesus. Worst of all they believe it. You cannot have a relationship with Jesus and not sell out to Him completely. If you know Him for real, the world will start to slide away. The two just don’t mix. The closer you get to one the farther you will get from the other. If you know Him only halfway, then you will be half Him and half the world. That kind of combination will only make you miserable. It will cause you to eventually lose out on God entirely.

Your eternal soul is not something to play games with. There is no place for compromise in following the Lord. James 1:8 tells us, “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” Verse 7 says, “Let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.” Where are you in your relationship with God? What is the dearest thing to you? Family and friends are great. But if you don’t commit them to God you will even destroy them. Jobs are good, but if you put them before God your life will be a wreck and you will lose them. Hobbies, recreation, and fun are restful, but if you put them before God, you’ll spend eternity in a very uncomfortable place. There is nothing you can have, be, or do that can take priority over serving God. Why? Because He is Lord, and Him only shall you serve. (Deuteronomy 10:12, “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to

walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”) Also, because He is so wonderful that if you dare to get close to Him, He will overshadow everything else. When you obey Him He will put your priorities in line and your life will begin to make sense.

When one man in the New Testament was asked to leave all he had and follow Jesus, he made the statement “I need to go bury my father.” Jesus answered him in Matthew 8:22, “Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.” The world is full of dead things, not only lacking what brings life to us here and now, but also what brings eternal life. When Christians play in the world, they are actually playing with corpses of the dead. Come out from among them. Be separate. Let the dead bury the dead. Concern yourself with the things that bring life in its fullest here and eternal life beyond that. You have in you eternal life springing up from the Holy Ghost of God in you. What do you give those around you? When you talk about things they talk about, act like them, become consumed by the same things that bind them, you give them the same death they already have. Give them life. Love them enough to give them life, the resurrection life in Jesus Christ.

I can remember a dream the Lord gave me as a young Christian. In this dream, I was at a party socializing with those friends of mine that weren't saved. I was acting like them because I was afraid to stand up for what I believed in and be different. I was walking the world's walk. (When Christians do that they usually try to outdo the sinners. What a mess that makes.) All of a sudden it was just like everyone there knew that the Lord had come back, that the rapture had taken place. I knew too. I knew that because I had compromised and was disobeying God I was left behind. But worse than that, I remember the look on the faces of those who were around me. They knew I had the truth. I had not stood up for what I knew. Because I hadn't they were doomed as well. They turned on me with a hate like I had never seen.

Don't compromise on God. Don't court the world and God. Submit to God and His love. Commit to Him 100 percent. Let go of the way of life that the world has. Make serving God your number 1 priority. That's the only way to make it to heaven. Anything you hold on to and don't let go of will be the thing the devil will use to destroy you. Commit it all. Submit your will.

When you make Him number 1 and separate yourself, you will release His presence in your life in a powerful way. Instead of your becoming a part of the world's problems, you will become a solution. You will become a Holy Ghost filled, anointed, Word of God carrying, child of a living God. You will make a difference to those around you.

We often forget as a church how to separate ourselves. Anything goes. I was in a church recently. They talked a good talk. They talked about knowing God's presence, His anointing and power. I heard what they said, but I didn't see any evidence of His presence in their midst. When God is there He

doesn't sneak in the back and you never know He is there. God comes in and consumes the willing. After service when leaving the church, I found the proof as whether God's presence had been there. I stepped outside and was nearly carried away by a column of smoke. Now this wasn't the smoke of God's Holy Ghost. It was a cloud of cigarette smoke. Smoking is a sin. The people who will let a 3 inch stick of tobacco control their lives are definitely not letting the Spirit of God control them. God's Spirit will bring deliverance. These people talked like God came to visit, but they were so bound I knew it wasn't true. God's presence will bring liberty and life to His people.

As a church, as a body, set yourself aside. Stand up for the Word of God. If you don't stand up, you will fall for anything. Don't waver. Expect your congregation to do the same. You may not become the most popular place but you definitely will become the most blessed of God. You may not have the biggest congregation, but when God comes that is **not** what really matters. He will draw those that you need to have. Your house will be filled with His presence.

Step 6. ***Set Your Priorities***

“I would like to get closer to Jesus in a relationship with Him and obey Him more, but I don’t have the time. I barely have time to read my Bible and pray let alone commit anything else.” I hear this so often. This is one of the saddest things, people that have allowed other things to creep in and control their lives to the point that they have nothing left for God. Many want to do more, but satan has blinded them and bound them into their rat race life so that they can’t even see how to get free. One of the most wonderful eye opening sermons I’ve heard preached concerning priorities was one Brother Goad preached several years ago. He told how Samson had gotten into a lot of things that crowded his life. This led to satan being able to bind him when he lost his strength, blind him when the soldiers came and put out his eyes, and grind him round and round like an animal around the grind stone.

Samson was known for his strength. He was reduced to weakness by the things satan sent that crept in and stole his strength. Satan has a grindstone for you. We allow so many things to come into our lives and take precedence over God. We don’t realize it when it happens. If we did we might stop it. Satan is so subtle in stealing away our lives. We start to get our priorities messed up and we can’t find the time for what needs to be number one. We become so set in the rut and routine of life that we can’t even see how to make time for God. We gradually begin to lose our sight, our ability to see things clearly as they are, our ability to discern good from bad and keep out the bad. We lose our strength. Most of all we lose our first love and the One Who died for us becomes a shadow in the background of our busy lives. Satan then harnesses a yoke on us and begins to use it to grind us down. Our life begins to fall apart because its foundation is no longer built on the Rock of Jesus and it begins to crumble. We become a hindrance to those around us that we love, not a help or a strength because we have lost sight of our joy, which we can only find in God. Life becomes so empty that we are hollow inside. But our schedule doesn’t slow down, it keeps accelerating. If we have time to stop and think we might turn back to God and satan doesn’t want that. He speeds everything up even faster. We crash and wonder why.

God is number one. He is Lord supreme. If He is not Lord in your life then He is not in your life for real. His very love and nature demands that He be number one. When you have a real relationship with Him and spend time in Him, just that will draw you even closer and priorities will fall in line. When He is your number one priority, He will put everything else in your life into perspective. He will put order in your life when you submit, listen, and obey Him. You will have His peace and His joy. You will have His strength. You will have His presence in your life.

As a church, a body of believers, we each need to individually make God a priority in our lives. Then when we come together as a body He will be lifted up

in our midst. We need to be sure that He is the number one reason that we exist, that we gather together. So many churches become involved in other things than the will of God. They begin to have programs with intentions to draw people. These programs take up their time and attention and draw away from the Lord. It no longer is His house. The motives are all wrong. We need to dedicate the Lord's sanctuary and our activities in them to Him. When it is truly His house, He will come and bless it with His presence.

One of the saddest things that I see all too frequently is yard sales on the front yard of the church. That just says to the world that our God is not sufficient. We get too busy doing things the world's way to do it God's way. There are no verses in the Bible that say that when we have financial troubles, we need to have yard sales. There are no verses that give us directions for hot dog sales. I was a revival and the Holy Ghost couldn't move at the end of the service because the pastor and most of the congregation already had their minds on the hot dog sale coming up next. Or the church dinner. Or raffle. Or the multiple things that we get into that have nothing to do with God. We want to have something to make things exciting, to draw young people, to draw in the numbers, to draw in the finances. The Bible tells us that if we lift up Jesus, He will draw all men. What happened to that? If we do it God's way and obey Him, He will bring in the finances. Obey Him and dare to trust Him.

Clear the yard sale mess out of the yard and open up your Bibles. Open up your hearts. Let the presence of God draw in the young people. I love to watch young people get excited about the power and presence of God. I remember a tent meeting Brother Goad had where young people from a nearby apartment building crowded in. Nobody compromised to get them to come. Nobody played worldly sounding music to get them to come. Nobody even invited them. But the Holy Ghost did. They come running to the altar for several night's services. We didn't plan youth night and set up a ritual for that. We didn't do our thing. God did His. I saw teenagers grabbing hold of the collars of young people that were praying around the altar to be saved, and yanking them up so that they could have room to kneel. Do it God's way and let Him do His thing.

Step 7. ***Unite in Love***

We have discussed God's love in other chapters, but here I want to give it a whole chapter. It surely deserves that. The best way to describe God's love is in Jesus' own words in John chapter 17. Please read the whole chapter. It will touch your heart. I have put here just a few verses. (We have talked about part of this passage earlier.) In this passage Jesus was praying just before His death. This is His prayer. Verse 26, "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them". His love is so wonderful. He loves those who love Him with a great love. Proverbs 8:17 says, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." He loves us with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 tells us, "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." How great is His love? Romans 8:35 tells us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" God has a very wonderful love for you, His child. What is it that He asks in return? That we love Him and show that love with our respect and obedience. He asks that we love Him with all our heart. He asks that we love His Word and respect it in that love we have for Him. He asks that we trust in His love and have faith in Him.

God is love (I John 4:8, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.") If this is true, it is plain to see that we have to be able to give and receive love to release the presence of God in our lives. The Bible tells us in I John 4:20, "If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" The devil specializes in keeping us from being able to love others and to receive love. He causes hurts that bring scars. He binds us with fear and mistrust. Some of the saddest people in the world are those he has bound from being able to feel or give love. There are many that are locked in a prison away from God. If you can't love and receive love you can't know God. That is why it is so important to love even our enemies. If we don't, we become trapped in bitterness. God's love is enough when we don't have our own. When we can't love, if we ask and submit our wrong feelings to God, He can love through us. His love will well up inside our heart and conquer the bitterness. We have to be willing.

God can deliver us from the bondages of satan and heal those scars. He can set us free to be able to love. We have to desire it, and He will do it. What a wonderful God we serve. He picked me up when I wasn't even able to love Him in return. He saw a desire in my heart to serve Him. He loved me, healed me, sent His Word and delivered me, filled me with His Holy Ghost to

set me free. Now I can accept His love and love Him in return with a whole heart. Love is not only the key to a relationship with God, but it is also the key to obedience. When we are able to love God with a whole heart and receive His

love, it is easier to obey. It is also the key to submission. It is easier to submit to God when we love Him and feel His wonderful love for us. If we lose our love we can lose our relationship, obedience, submission, and more. The devil always is doing things to cause this to happen. Just like in any relationship, doubt and misunderstanding can breach our trust and cause our love to fade. If you communicate, that isn't as likely to happen. When communication with God is two ways, talking and listening, the devil isn't able to work in misunderstandings. When I don't understand something that is happening in my life, I go to God, not away from Him. He either gives me understanding or the faith and trust I need to get through whatever is happening.

Revelation 2:4 speaks of a church that had lost its first love. "I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted, nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." We are the bride of Christ. He has betroved us to Himself. That love of a bridegroom for His new bride is a very tender love. The Lord told this particular church that it had done all these wonderful things. These are not small things that He named. He had one thing against them. They had lost that first love. God desires our churches to return to our first love, to the place where we honor and obey, and fellowship with Him as a body. God wants us to become His bride, to be one with one another in His love and to be one with Him. Church, we need to return to our first love.

God desires our love. He created us to love and fellowship with Him. He created us for that reason knowing the price He would have to pay for that love would be His Son. Still He created us. God longs to wrap you in His wonderful love. His love is His presence. Draw to Him and let Him love you. Let His love touch you and you will never be the same. We cannot be a picture of His true church, as a body of believers, unless we are in love with Jesus as a body of believers and committed and submitted in that love. He has betroved us to Himself. That can't happen without love. This isn't just a picture given for an example, it is a reality. God calls us His bride because of that great love that He has for us. Isaiah 62:5, "...as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." II Corinthians 11:2, "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." That love that a bridegroom has for a bride is a very tender love. In Revelation 2:2-3 the Lord

told this church that it had done all these wonderful things. Read them. He had one thing against them however. They had lost that first love, that bride love. God desires our love. He created us to love and fellowship with Him.

The enemy is a master at destroying the love and unity in a body of believers. He brings bitter and jealous spirits against them to destroy that Holy Ghost unity. When a body of believers is not united in unity, they can no longer have that spiritual authority that they have if they are united. One can put 10 to flight, 2 can put 10,000, imagine what your congregation can do when it's united. The devil knows this. He works overtime to cause contention. Guard against this. As the old saying goes, "A family that prays together stays together." If you as a congregation take time to pray together, for one another and for the church, this will build unity in the congregation. Guard against people that the devil may send in to bring in contentious spirits and spirits of dissension. Every one that comes to church may not be sent by the Lord. The Bible tells us that the devil will send in some to spy out our liberty, and destroy it. They will come in expressly to destroy, not to build up. Guard against this and take spiritual authority if this happens. Guard the unity and liberty in your church.

God loves us with a supernatural love. He desires to fellowship with us. He created us for that reason knowing the price He would have to pay for that love would be His Son. Still He created us. God longs to wrap you in His wonderful love. His love is His presence. Draw to Him and let Him love you. Let His love touch you and you will never be the same. As a congregation, spend time together fellowshiping with the Lord and ministering to Him in praise. Worship Him. He will be there.

Step 8. ***Have A Heart of Forgiveness***

Today repentance is almost a lost art. There are many that are very good at excusing away their sin. They will do it by staying ignorant of God's Word (which doesn't exempt them because God's Word will still judge them). They do it by twisting God's truth to get by. They do it by self-justification; talking themselves into thinking they have a personal excuse that makes it OK. They do it by self-pity. They do it by hiding from the truth, not admitting their guilt. They do it by blaming everyone else, as if that gives them the right to do what they want and get by. But only by admitting our sin can we repent. Only by repenting can we be forgiven.

Not long ago I heard of a doctrine that was being preached in a denomination, probably in more than one. It says that what might be right for you might not be right for me. What might be wrong for me might not be wrong for you. What has happened to the truth of the Word of God and the standards it sets for our lives? Without these standards we cannot prosper. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua made a declaration for his entire household, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He declared that he and his children would serve the Lord. Our children are falling because we have not taught them guidelines for their lives. We ourselves are not standing, let alone having enough of a relationship with God to see that our children stand. Without our setting an example, without our teaching them standards, they have no handholds to strengthen them. Without absolutes to guide them they fall for anything. We need to get back to the basics of the Word of God. Live by it. Do what it says and not do what it says not to do. We need to ask God to reveal His truth His way to our hearts. All of it. Not a watered down part of it. We need to measure up to it and admit when we fall short. We need to repent and with the help of His Holy Ghost, we need to change. Until we do, the presence of God will be blocked from moving in our life. The Bible says that the Truth will set us free. If our congregation isn't hearing the whole truth from the pulpit, then our congregation will be bound, and the charge will lay at our feet.

One of the basics of releasing God's Spirit in our lives is having a repentant heart (II Corinthians 7:9-10, "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a Godly manner; that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...."). Repentance means Godly sorrow. It means that we are heartfelt sorry that we have done wrong, so heartfelt that we don't do it again. The Word of God tells us in Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

God's Word is a measurer. It presents us a rule to live by. It is like a sword that cuts to the very marrow of our being and cuts out the bad. (Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.") God's Word and His Spirit are convickers. If we don't allow them to be, we silence God and His presence in our life. But when we submit our hearts to Him and allow His conviction power to deal with us, the Word of God and His Spirit in us gives us the power to overcome and change. When we come broken hearted because of our sin (and we all have it) He is ready to receive us unto Himself. Only when we allow His Spirit to chastise us and break us can we become His sons. (Hebrews 12:6-7, "For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth, If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is He whom the father chasteneth not."). I praise God that He loves us as sons enough not to allow us to go on in our wrongdoing, never knowing that we are sinning. I praise God that He sends His Holy Ghost and His Word to convict us, to turn us away from sudden destruction and hell. Without this how could we ever make it?

I heard a preacher say that the Holy Ghost does not want to make you uncomfortable. That He loves us as we are. He is a gentleman and does not push Himself on us in an uncomfortable way. Praise God that is a lie. If it were the truth, there would be no hope for any of us. We just read that the Word of God is like a sword. That definitely isn't comfortable. We have talked about the chastisement of the Lord. That isn't comfortable. What is more comfortable-God's conviction, or His judgment on those who refuse to allow Him to convict them, on those who refuse to repent. Praise God that He doesn't just leave us in our sin. I want Him to make me as uncomfortable as it takes for me to get to heaven. I want Him to cause me to make those around me so uncomfortable that they make it to heaven as well. Wouldn't it be terrible to neglect to give the whole truth of God's Word to your congregation, to fail to allow the Holy Ghost to convict them, to do so because you don't want to make them uncomfortable enough because you are afraid that they will leave, then to one day find yourself in hell because of your own compromise along with those you deceived.

There is not a more wonderful feeling than that of knowing you are forgiven. There is no greater bondage than that of guilt. Real forgiveness means you are free from your sin, your past, guilt and condemnation. It means you have a new start, a new day, a chance to be made new in Him. Matthew 9:17 tells us, "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved." You can't be made new until the old is

done away with. The old can't be done away with until we let go of it all and allow God to set us free from it. This can't happen until we recognize our sin and repent. We can't repent until we see we are wrong. Thanks be to God Who gave us His Word to guide us and His Spirit to correct us.

I thank God for every time I have felt His wonderful mercy. I thank Him for every time I have unloaded my guilt and shame at the foot of His cross. I thank Him for every new beginning and fresh start He has given me. I don't want to hide from the truth about myself. I want to give it all up so that He can set me free.

Not only does our forgiveness lose the presence of God in our life but our forgiving others does too. Forgiving others is so important that the Bible tells us plainly that to be forgiven from God we have to forgive those that have wronged us. No matter how great the wrong or deep the hurt. God commands us not only to forgive our enemies but to love them. (Matthew 5:44, "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven...") Humanly that is not possible. It is human nature to want to get back at those who hurt us, to judge them, to be bitter at their wrongdoing. Only with God's help can we forgive. When we make up our minds that we need to forgive them and turn it over to Him, His Holy Ghost

inside will not only help us forgive, but will also help us to be able to love those we have forgiven.

Doctors today have linked unforgiveness and bitterness to diseases such as hardening of the arteries, heart disease, and even cancer. Our mind and spirit has a strong influence over our body's health. When we do not forgive, we allow the person that has caused us hurt to control our lives, destroy our mind, and our health. All too often they don't pay for our bitterness. We do. Don't let that happen to you. Let God release forgiveness in your life. Unforgiveness can block His presence. Let him set you free.

Unforgiveness can bind an entire church from releasing the presence of God in their midst. Make sure that forgiveness and love reign in your midst. Pray together and love one another. One of the greatest bondages is caused by those who refuse to forgive who use their tongue to destroy others. The Word of God tells us that finding fault and causing strife are even hated by God. (Proverbs 6:16 and 19, "These six things doth the Lord hate...A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.") I have seen these people be punished by God for causing division in His house. Be careful. Forgive and let God bless you with His love.

It is also important as a body of believers that time is given for those in the church to repent. I have been blessed to be in some churches where the altar was being used. It was being used to pray for the lost, and to pray for

the needs of the church. It was regularly used as a place of repentance. It was used so often that no one felt uneasy about going there. It was an open part of the church worship. When this happens there will be a change in the church. There will be a change in how God's Spirit moves. You will openly welcome His Spirit. You will release His presence in your midst.

Step 9. ***Respect God's Word***

Respect means to honor something so much that it influences your life and becomes a priority to you to consider it above all else. In today's world an attitude of respect is not common. We hear mocking of God's Word and His people constantly. Through this, we can be drawn into an attitude of cockiness instead of respect, an attitude of submitting to no one. We cannot unlock the presence of God in our lives until we begin to respect Him and His Word. When we truly respect someone, we listen and obey with gladness. When we respect God and His Word we should do the same. We should show our respect as well as our honor. How much respect do we show for God's Word? Do we lift it up when it is not the popular thing to do? Do we obey it even when it hurts? Do we read it and spend time studying and allowing God's Holy Ghost to unfold Its pages? Do we esteem It above our wealth? Do we consider it above our relationships enough to let It control them, who we have relationships with and what we do? Do we submit to Its Words and allow It to work in and through our lives by God's anointing? Do we submit to It and allow It to be as a two-edge sword, cutting away what doesn't belong in our lives, hearts, and minds?

When we respect God's Word, it is a part of God. When we release the Spirit of God, we release His presence. When we as individuals or as a church as a whole lift up and obey God's Word, lifting up His whole truth regardless of popularity, we will release the Spirit of God to work in our midst. If we deny the truth, stifle part of His Word, take out only what is comfortable to swallow, we will not have God's presence or His blessings in our lives or in our church. I went to a church several years ago that was filled with sick and crippled people. There were actually more that were seriously ill or even permanently handicapped than well. They were young and old alike. I asked God to show me why. I knew it wasn't God's will for them to be this way. Why were there so many in this one congregation? They were Pentecostal and believed in a move of the Holy Ghost and healing. Why wasn't healing at work in their midst? God began to show me that they had twisted His Word. They were off on a tangent, a doctrine that wasn't right. God's Word is what builds our faith. Romans 10:17 tells us, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." If we don't have sound Word we don't have a sound faith. We can't believe in His miracles. If we don't have God's Word as it is written in truth, then we don't really have His truth at all. If we lack the truth we cannot be free. It is God's Word that sets us free. If we are not free then we will be bound by sickness, sin, and all kinds of bondage.

We must respect God's Word and honor it as it is, without changing It to fit what we want It to be. Unless we do we will not have Its power in our

lives or churches. God stands by His Word. We cannot honor God if we do not honor His Word in the truth It was written in. We can only find that truth through the revelation of His Holy Ghost. It takes God's Spirit to reveal what His Word means. It is spiritual. We can't understand it in the flesh. That is why so many people and churches get so many things twisted up. They become bound because they try to decipher God's Word with their own fleshly minds. They only get confused. Go to God if you want understanding of what His Word is all about. Who can explain It better?

How much respect is God's Word shown in your church? All too often we fall into the social way of things. We talk about good topics that up lift our congregation. We tell jokes to liven things up. We discuss political issues. We talk about the activities for the week. We fellowship and have a good meal. But God's Word isn't given respect. If it wasn't for God's Word, you wouldn't have a church, matter of fact you wouldn't need one. God's Word is what called for the church to be set up and the guidelines for the church. The Bible says that it is through the foolishness of preaching that we are saved. Through the Word we are instructed and taught what sin is and how to overcome it. We learn how to find victory for our lives, and the lives of our families. How much do you respect God's Word in your services?

Another way of respecting God's Word is by obeying It. If we never read and desire to live by It, we are not respecting It. If reading and hearing His Word do not have a priority in our life, we are not honoring It. If all the understanding we ever get is what someone else tells us, we are not honoring It. The Word of God has power to work in our lives, change our circumstances, releasing us from bondage, healing our sicknesses, and lifting us up. The Bible says of Itself in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent It." It has power to work in our lives if we allow It to, respect It, submit to It and obey It.

We have to read it to find that out. I have seen people struggling, fighting battles with their health, or their finances, or fighting to have faith just to survive, and I ask them how often they read their Bible, how often do they go to God's Word to find strength in It's pages. I am amazed at their answers. God gave us His Word for a purpose but if we never read It we will never know Its power. Or if we never obey it we will never know. It is easy to read the Bible and not live by what It says. When we do we are like the man described in James 1:23, "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer; he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." If we look at God's Word and continue to do what we have always done and refuse to obey it, how can It change us?

If you want to release the presence of God in your life and in your church, seek after God's Word with all your heart, listen for His Spirit to explain It, submit to It, and obey. Cherish God's Word. Honor It. Remember that it was God's Word that created the world. He spoke and it happened. His spoken Word had the power to create all life, what can His written Word do in yours?

Step 10. ***Respecting God's Spirit***

I remember a story about a Holy Ghost filled preacher. His mother was sick and dying. He prayed for her to be healed, fully believing that she would be. She died. He asked God why He didn't heal her. God answered that she didn't receive the truth of God's Spirit being able to heal her. She didn't receive His anointing. She didn't believe. She had not been taught about healing and couldn't receive it. She died because of her lack of knowledge.

God is a supernatural God. He is not a natural one. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." God will not fit into our little formulae of what we think He should be and do. He is full of power and glory. We cannot deny His supernatural power and have His presence at work in our lives. If we do, like the lady above, we cannot receive what He has for us. God is an awesome God. We try to limit Him, take away His supernatural power and spiritual being, and put Him on the level of a natural understanding. Then we doubt His being able to work in our behalf. This isn't reality at all. We have to come to God the way He is. We have to accept Him the way He is and let Him work the way He does.

We have to accept God's Spirit and submit to His work in our lives. If we don't, God's Spirit cannot be real to us. God is a Spirit and they that come to Him; they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Philippians 3:3 tells us, "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." But even in church, we act like the Spirit is bad, that the Holy Ghost is bad and we don't want any of that spiritual stuff. That's not how it works. He is the Holy Ghost. He won't come to you on your terms but on His. Honor and respect His Spirit. You may not always understand Him, but thank God we have a God that is bigger than our tiny minds can understand. If I could understand all about God, then I would be God. I need a God that is bigger than my understanding, one that can take care of meeting all my needs. (Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.")

Many churches today fail to submit and honor God's Holy Ghost. They have a form and fashion, a ritual. God's will for the service is far from their minds. Their minds are usually on what is for dinner after the service, or the restaurant they are heading to after church. They come and go, never seeking God's Spirit. Lives are not changed, bondages are not broken, and souls are not saved. Those on the pew wonder why. Honor God's Spirit. Let Him rule and work in your midst. Come and obey Him. Come expecting Him

and desiring Him to move with His Spirit. Come praising Him for what He is going to do in your midst

We also need to remember that worship shouldn't just happen in church. We need to worship God daily and praise Him and love Him for what He is doing in our lives, and for who He is. Our homes need to ring out with His praise. Wherever we go we need to lift Him up. There is a dear lady that I know. No matter where I see her, whether in town, or at the grocery store, right away she starts worshipping the Lord. We start talking about how good He is. Before long somebody gets happy. We need to let the world know we serve a God Who is worth worshipping. We need to let our families and our children know that we serve a God who is worthy of our praise. One of the greatest meetings that I have been in was in a restaurant. The Holy Ghost fell and gifts of God were moving. People who were outside of our group joined in and those in the restaurant were touched.

The Bible tells us that order is the atmosphere God's Spirit thrives in. If there is no order in God's house His Spirit will not dwell there. In one definition, this order means no confusion. I have been in several churches lately that disorder ruled. People actually sat and talked while the sermon was being preached. Children ran about and laughed in the back. There was no respect for God's Spirit, there was no order. God's Spirit was not there. We must respect God's Spirit, and His house. Another kind of order is that which causes us to be in submission to those over us in the Lord. God's order in His house calls for the pastor to be His spokesman, bringing His Word and allowing His Spirit to rule. The church is to be in submission to the pastor. I see too often congregations that are not following God's Word. All too often the pastor is not in submission to God's Spirit, or if he is, the congregation is ruling and not in submission to his leadership. Many times families as a group come together to rule a church. That is not God's Word. God is the head. The pastor is under him. The church is to be his body, to be in support of him. God's Spirit won't come to a church that is not in order. Another kind of order in God's house comes when all the congregation is in unity and in love as true brothers and sisters in Christ. If this isn't so, God's Spirit is not being honored.

If we honor and obey God's Spirit what can happen in our church? Read Acts Chapter 2. In this scripture the disciples were seeking God's face in unity. The Holy Ghost fell in their midst. The Bible did not say that they went around saying, "Hush, stop that, you are making too much noise." It does say that it was noised abroad. Over 3,000 souls were added that day. We need to let that fire that fell at Pentecost fall in our churches today. We need to respect His mighty Holy Ghost. We can have as much of the power of God and His Spirit as we want. Lift up your hands and say, "God I praise you and I thank you." Let Him rain on you with His Holy Ghost.

Step 11.

Prayer

Prayer is communication with God. It puts you directly into the presence of God. Through prayer we can sit at the feet of Jesus and fellowship with Him. Prayer is not just saying a list of things we want. All too often we fail to understand what prayer is. We pray on the surface and in the flesh. We fail to realize that it is a spiritual connection and we have to get out of the flesh to experience it. We must realize also that it is a two-way communication. It not only is a time when we can speak to God, but also a time when He can fellowship with us. It is a time when God can bless, anoint, and speak to our hearts. It is also a time when we can pour our hearts out to Him. When we realize how wonderful prayer is and we experience it to the fullest, it no longer is a have to. It becomes a must. It no longer is a duty, something we make ourselves do out of obligation, but it becomes a lifeline. It no longer becomes something we grudgingly spend 15 minutes a day on at best, but it becomes something we long to spend hours in. I Chronicles 16:11 tells us, "Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His face continually." You can't do this with a ritual. You can't do this by asking for a show of hands of those who need prayer in a ritual. You can't do this in the flesh.

Prayer is communication with a living and loving God, a Father Who loves to spend time with His children. He always blesses when He comes and we feel His presence. He is real. Through prayer, we find out how wonderfully real He is. James 4:8 tells us, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." Only when we draw close to Him will we really see Him like He is. Through prayer this happens for real. Psalm 91:14-16 tells us, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him, with long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." Prayer unlocks the presence of God in our lives to work freely. It creates an atmosphere around what we are praying about in which God can better work. John 16:23-26 tells us how prayer works, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing, verily verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." The key to prayer is found in the section "ask in my name". To be able to ask in the name of another you have to be yielded and submitted to them, asking what is in their will. When we go in our own will, asking our own wishes, not submitted to Him, we may not receive the answer.

Prayer unlocks circumstances, changes hearts, delivers and heals, looses finances, looses bondages in a way no amount of worry or fear can. (Oh if we would only learn to pray before we worry.) We need to pray and

pray through until we know heaven has broken through, until we feel that release in our heart that God will move. We can then walk in joy and not in fear. All too often we don't pray through. We spend our 15 minutes on the surface. I have actually carried things in my spirit for weeks or even months before I knew my prayer had broken through. When it did, it didn't take months more before God corrected the situation. He moved quickly and with power. The situation was fixed in His perfection. My prayer had released His Spirit to move.

All too often we want it easy. Prayer isn't a magic formulae to instantly zap things into being. Prayer is not easy. We have to first push through our flesh because prayer is a spiritual connection. Then we have to push through the powers of hell that would hinder us. We have to spiritually push through to God's throne. Have you ever noticed that when you start to pray (or read the Bible) you get so sleepy, or your mind wanders where you can hardly concentrate? This is the devil trying to hinder you by coming against your flesh. This is the first step. So many let this stop them. They wind up with surface prayers that unlock nothing. You must push on through this until you unlock the presence of God and you begin to communicate with Him in His presence. Nothing is more wonderful. Prayer then presses on from being a battle to a blessing. How can you tell when you have prayed through and you can stop carrying that burden in your heart? Oh, you will know. Heaven will let you know.

There are some conditions that unlock the power of prayer in our lives. For our prayer to delight the Lord we must be upright in heart. Proverbs 15:29 tells us, "The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous." We must be righteous. To be upright and righteous does not mean to be perfect. It means to be perfect and whole in our heart, completely sold out to God and striving after His righteousness. None are perfect. We can't have righteousness in our selves. But we can desire to be submitted in His righteousness, in love with Him and covered in His blood, 100% desiring to serve Him, allowing Him to work in our lives bringing us into His righteousness.

Another key to unlocking prayer is found in Matthew 21:22, "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." We have to believe. We not only have to believe God is able, but we also have to trust that He will do it for us. We can't be beaten down and condemned and expect prayer to work. If we are under condemnation and guilt, prayer can't work. We need to ask God's forgiveness and accept it. We need then to ask God to deliver us from things such as condemnation that would separate us in our prayers from Him. We need to realize how much He loves us and rest in that love. We can then seek His face and delight in His presence.

When we seek God with all our heart we will find Him. Jeremiah 29:13

says, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord...." We can't be double minded but we have to be single in heart. If we become so, and humble ourselves and pray God promises to lift us up.

Prayer can bring a church to being in one accord. When a church as a body unites together and seeks God's face there is great power in that prayer. Deuteronomy 32:30 tells us that one can put a thousand to flight and two can put ten thousand. The devil doesn't want that to happen so he either tries to keep a church too busy and side tracked to seek God, or he tries to let confusion rule, then jealousy, bitterness, and back biting takes over. How can we avoid this? Pray, pray, pray, pray. When we pray for one another, carry one another's burdens, spend time at the feet of Jesus with one another, it is easier to be united as a body of believers. Show me a congregation that constantly gossips and back bites, one where jealous spirits run wild in the midst, one that can't agree on the basics, then I will show you a congregation that needs to get down on their knees for one another and spend time united in prayer. Prayer dissolves all that away. Show me a church that is united in prayer and I will show you a church that is ready for a God-given Holy Ghost revival that will change lives. Can this happen to your church? Follow God's formulae for releasing His presence. Test His Word. Become united in seeking God for it. Pray until it happens. It won't be easy. It will take work. But the rewards will be out of this world.

Step 12.

Faith

We know that without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." What is faith? Knowing that He is a rewarder and knowing that He will reward those that seek Him. Another way of interpreting faith is being Forsaking All I Trust Him. Faith is letting go of everything else and depending on God. Faith is not only knowing that He is big enough to do what is needed, but also trusting that He will do for you. Faith can only be built from a relationship. We can't trust God until we get to know Him and His amazing love.

Faith comes from hearing God's Word. Romans 10:17 tells us, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." We also know that if we lack faith we can ask for an increase like the apostles who came to Jesus did when they asked in Luke 17:5, "...Lord, increase our faith." We need not be condemned for little faith, but we need to ask God for an increase and use what we have. Everyone has a measure of faith (Romans 12:3, "...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.") We need to use the faith God gives us and watch it increase. God honors maximum faith. It will unlock His presence in your life as well as in your church.

One of the best examples of faith in the Bible is found in the life of Abraham. He is even listed in the Hebrews hall of faith. We first hear his story in Genesis chapter 12. In this scripture, God spoke to him and told him to go to another country, take all he owned, leave his family and friends, and live there. If he would do this God promised that He would make of Abraham's seed a mighty nation. There were two small problems with what God told Abraham to do. Abraham didn't even have any children and he and his wife were past child-bearing age. Also, God didn't even tell Abraham where he was to go. He would show Him in time. Genesis 12:4 tells us that Abraham didn't hesitate. He immediately obeyed God. The nation of Israel today stands as a tribute to God's faithfulness in honoring Abraham's faith and obedience.

God will honor faith in a person and in a body of believers. I see churches who are blessed because they are following a vision that God has given them, even if that obedience means they have to go through a lot. It may mean they have to blindly follow God completely by faith and not by sight. When I see a church that walks by faith, I see a church that will get somewhere in serving God. I see a victorious and fulfilled church. I see a church that is blessed with God's presence. If I see a church that is caught up in yard sales and bake sales just to pay the bills, I know there is no faith or relationship with God in that church. God's presence will seldom be there.

How do you get more faith? The Bible says that if we ask, God will increase our faith. It tells us in Jude 20 that praying in the Holy Ghost will increase our faith (“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”). It tells us that obedience releases faith. It tells us that faith works by love. Also a right relationship with God increases our faith. God promises that He will keep those who put their trust in Him. We need to trust in His Word.

One of the things that are important when we walk by faith is that we cannot walk in flesh and walk by faith. This means that we cannot look at our circumstances through our own eyes, think about it with our natural mind, or let our emotions control us. We have to put all these into subjection to God’s Word and His Spirit. We have to look at things through His eyes, His understanding, and let Him control how we feel about it. We have to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.

Dare to believe God. Dare to obey Him even when it may seem impossible. Trust His Word. Let it work for you. When you do, you will find favor with God. You will find His promises and blessings being fulfilled in your life. His presence will be released to work in your life and in the lives of those around you. Just believe.

Step 13. ***Praise***

God's Word tells us that praise can release the presence of God in our lives and our church. When His presence is released we will praise Him even more. Praise has to start with a relationship with Him. When you know Him and follow Him and He works in your life, it is easier to praise Him. But there will be times when you can't see what God is doing at all. Those are times when you have to trust Him, because you know Him. When you go through these times and still praise Him, this is the power-filled praise that releases the presence of God in a supernatural way.

God loves our praise. He created us for our fellowship, our love, and our praise. We get His attention when we praise Him. When we praise God we acknowledge Who He is. We acknowledge what He can do. This kind of praise is more than our human praise. Human praise is based on simply what we at the moment are doing. "Oh, you are wonderful, you did really good", is how we praise. God deserves our praise even when we can't see that what He is doing is good, even when we can't understand. Even when it looks like our world is falling apart, He still deserves our praise. He has not changed from what He is. Who He is has not changed. Does our love of Who He is stop when we don't understand what He is doing? Our praise needs to be continuous and consistent in spite of our circumstances. Bad circumstances do not change the nature of God. When we praise Him, and love and trust Him no matter what is happening or how we feel, we will release the presence of God in our lives in a supernatural way. This will eventually change our circumstances.

Praise also reminds us of our place. We sometimes get too high and mighty for our own good. We think we have it all figured out, that we can do it our way and it actually will work. We don't bow to anyone. This is human nature. Praise puts us down where we belong, at the feet of Jesus looking up. Praise can only come from a humble and broken spirit. God says a humble and broken spirit He will not despise, but the proud He will put down. Praise keeps us humble by helping us remember who we are and Who God is.

Isaiah 12:5 tells us "Sing unto the Lord; for He hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth." Not only do we praise Him for Who He is, what He has done and is doing for us, but also for what He will do. The most wonderful thing we have to praise Him for is His wonderful grace, always there in spite of what we see around us. His grace will keep us and cause us to endure. His grace will see us through the battle. His grace will see us home.

One of the most powerful examples of praise is found in 2 Chronicles 20 in the story of Jehosaphat. The circumstances were definitely bad.

The children of Moab and the Ammonites had joined together to destroy Judah. Jehoshaphat and all the inhabitants of the land fell before the Lord and worshipped Him in verse 18.

Could you imagine a whole nation praising the Lord? They were under attack. All they had was a prophet that told them it would be OK. The battle was the Lord's. They listened, believed, and praised God. How wonderful! What did God use to deliver them? He used their praise. In verse 21 Jehosophat appointed singers unto the Lord. Verse 22 says, "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against (the enemy)...." When Judah got to the battle they found their enemy already dead. The greatest job they had was carrying away the spoil. Their praise released the presence of God. He won their battle. Do you have enemies you face, battles in your life? Praise the Lord. Don't give into fear and negativism. Praise Him especially when there seems to be no reason. Praise Him in spite of your circumstances. He will move for you.

Another powerful example of praise is found in the life of David. His Psalms are full of praise. In fact praise and praising are mentioned in the book of Psalms alone over 170 times. He had learned in his life how praise releases the presence of God. He had many battles. He faced many enemies in his life. He learned that praise could bring victories. David appointed people to constantly praise God around the clock. God blessed his nation. It rose to become one of the mightiest nations in that part of the world. From a shepherd boy to a king, from a king to a direct descendant of Jesus Himself, David praised His God.

In Nehemiah we find another example of praise. Nehemiah paid attention to David. He knew what praise had done for Israel once before. Nehemiah 12:24 tells us that he followed David's formula for praise. Israel had fallen and forgotten God. The people praised when rebuilding the city of Jerusalem. There were many that wanted to see the city fall before the walls could be built. They even had to build with weapons in one hand. While they built they praised God for His deliverance over their enemies. Their praise in itself became a wall of protection around them. What a powerful testimony to the influence of praise.

One of the most powerful weapons we have against satan's attacks is praise. When he comes against us with his best and we simply turn and praise God, we stop fear and doubt from being able to work. This cuts satan's power. Don't be negative. Don't let satan know that he is bothering you. Praise God for how He will help you overcome. Praise Him for what this battle is perfecting in you. Praise Him and watch satan step back and give it up.

Praise God. When everything is closing in and it seems there is no way out, praise God. When there is nothing left to praise Him for, praise Him for Who He is. Praise Him for His grace to overcome. Praise Him for what He is going to do. He will win the battle. Praise releases His presence. You will soon be praising Him for what He has done.

Now I am not talking here about praise and worship music. I am not talking about contemporary music that is being called praise and worship music. We praise God whether we have music going or not. Praise isn't a brand name of music. God won't come near a lot of the praise and worship music that is going on in the church world today. When you sing a song that sounds like it came off of a rock and roll CD, don't expect the Spirit of God to be honored enough to fill your temple. Praise comes from the heart.

Praise is also the key for a victorious church. Praising God brings His people into unity and releases His presence. Praise releases His presence in the midst. Praise is mentioned many times in the Bible as something to be done in

God's sanctuary. We have had services where everyone sat and looked at the singers. They were being entertained, maybe clapping and tapping their feet and enjoying the music. They all went away entertained but empty. God's Spirit didn't move. No one was saved, healed, encouraged in their spirit, or delivered. Then we have had services where the congregation had learned how praise releases the Spirit of God. They got in one mind and accord and praised God. It wasn't long until His Holy Ghost came on the scene. He didn't leave us the same, as we were when we came. Praise Him in church, in His sanctuary. That is the main purpose for coming together. Let the songs remind you of all He has done for you. Let God's Word cause you to think of His wonderful grace and power to keep you. Let them remind you of the power of His wonderful love. Thank Him for His Word. Praise Him. Let His house be filled with the sound of His praise. It will soon be filled with His presence, and His presence will change your lives.

Step 14. **Rejoice**

When we study the word of God we find the words joy, joyful, and rejoicing are used nearly 470 times. There is even a commandment to rejoice. Philippians 4:4 tells us, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice." One of the true evidences of an obedient and faith filled relationship with God is being able to rejoice in spite of circumstances and in spite of how we feel. When we know that God will make a way for us no matter what, and we trust Him, we can rejoice in Him no matter what our circumstances are.

I remember when I went with my Aunt Gay Young to the doctor the day she found out she had a very advanced stage of lymph cancer. On our way home the Holy Ghost rained joy on us, that wonderful joy straight from heaven. We laughed all the way home. We couldn't cry or be afraid because of that wonderful joy from heaven. I remember saying, "I don't think this is how we are supposed to feel." It didn't matter. God's joy was greater than any other feeling. That joy kept her going in the days to come. That joy gave her strength to endure. That joy wasn't based on her circumstances. But it was based in her knowing that whatever happened, God would win. While she was going through this time, God gave me a song that blessed her. It was her favorite song that I had written. Here are the words.

I've Got Joy

Chorus

I've got joy, joy like a river, like a river in my soul.
I've got joy, joy like a river, Holy Ghost river full of joy.

Verse 1

You may ask me why I'm smiling, why that old devil can't get me down.
When circumstances seem so awful, that I still won't wear a frown.
Cause there's a river of life flowing, flowing deep within my soul.
Bringing me the joy of Jesus, Holy Ghost river overflow.

Verse 2

I feel laughter in my spirit, I feel a praise in my song.
Cause I know I'm bound for victory, Jesus is in control.
I don't care what is around me, circumstances are not my Lord.
I am flowing in that river, Holy Ghost river full of joy.

When God's joy from heaven bubbles up inside of us, this will be where we find our strength. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us, "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength." That joy has nothing whatsoever to do with the circumstances or battle that we are going through. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. That means

it is one of the traits or qualities of the Holy Ghost. We have Him inside of us. When we don't feel like it, His joy is still there. This joy also comes because of our faith and trust in God. We know that somehow, God will make a way for us where there seemeth none. When the devil can steal that joy, he can steal our strength, and then our faith. That's why he specializes in crowding around us negative and worldly thoughts and advice. He sends people with opinions full of doubt and fear. If these steal our joy, he has our strength. Rejoicing and praising God are devil-fighting tools that chase him away. When in the face of trials and tribulations we rejoice and praise God, we will find victory.

Sometimes things may really be so bad that we can't find anything to rejoice about. What do we do then? We still rejoice. Humanly that isn't possible.

We need at such times to remember the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 lists

these, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...." When the Bible speaks of these fruits it doesn't say that these are our fruits or our qualities. It says these are the fruits of the Holy Ghost. Where is the Holy Ghost? Inside of us. Where are these fruits? Inside of us. These aren't things we are to possess on our own. These are things that the Holy Ghost living inside of us can bring into our being when we ask and submit to Him. This joy is one of the fruits that can well up inside of us even when we have no joy of our own.

One of the quickest ways to lose our joy is to become negative in our thinking. This is such a problem in the church world today. Some people can even find negative in an ice cream sundae. Negative and critical spirits throw people into depression. They take away any ray of hope, when actually things aren't that bad. They shroud over the Word of God and clog up our relationship with Him. Bind these things when they come against you. Don't let satan steal your joy. Rejoice when you don't feel like it. Rejoice when it seems like it's falling apart. Rejoice with His joy when you don't have any of your own. Then one day you will see what you were rejoicing for.

Christians have no business being on anti-depressant pills. We don't serve a depressed God. Depression isn't listed as one of the fruits of the spirit. Depression is a devil out of hell. It is a spirit and needs to be dealt with in spiritual means, not physical ones. Bind that spirit. Stand against it. Realize that you don't have to be depressed. Doctors will make you think that it is physical. Rarely, that may be the case. Then you need to be healed. Don't accept this. Don't settle for it. It will destroy not only your life, but the lives of those you love. Don't let depression steal your joy.

Fear is another way satan binds our joy and steals our peace. So many people today are bound with a spirit of fear that leaves them crippled and powerless to serve God. II Timothy 1:7 tells us, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Praise God.

He is not a God of fear but of love and power. We have a birthright of faith, not one of fear. Hold your head up, your shoulders back. Don't give place to the spirit of fear. It can destroy you. Ask God to loose in you a spirit of rejoicing that will not only help you overcome fear, but one that will spread out and not only loose you, but loose those around you. We were not born again to be bound but to be free. Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice

Step 15. ***Binding Satan***

You must remember that you have an enemy. Satan. He is your enemy because He is God's enemy. He hates you because God loves you. You have taken a place in God's heart that he at one time held before he rebelled and was cast out of heaven. (Luke 10:18, "And he said unto them, I beheld satan as lightning fall from heaven.") He wants to stop you from learning how to release God's presence in your life. He will send a cloud that hangs over you so that you can't feel God's presence. He will try to draw you aside to sin. He can cause circumstances that cause you to react with bad attitudes. He can entice you into bad habits that separate you from God. He can bring circumstances into your life that can cause you to doubt God and His love. He can cause you to feel condemned and cause you to doubt God being able to love you. He can bring about a feeling of discouragement or condemnation to make you feel removed from God. He can catch you up in a rat race life where you have no time for God. For thousands of years he has perfected his technique and he is good at what he does.

What is our hope in overcoming all that? The devil may be good at what he does, but God is the master over it all. God knows satan even better than satan knows himself. God has given us in that knowledge tools to overcome. Here is a list of some of them:

God's Word. In God's Word we find we have power to overcome. Romans 10:17, "For then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

The Blood of Jesus. When we plead the blood of Jesus satan has to flee.

The Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost has been a proven devil fighter for thousands of years. We have Him inside of us. When we pray, especially when we pray in tongues through the Baptism of the Holy Ghost we have power over satan. Jude 20.

The Name of Jesus. We are given authority, not in our name, not in our own selves, but in the Name of Jesus. In the Name of Jesus satan has to flee.

We know that the battle is great and that our enemy is great, but with all this on our side, how can we lose? We also have armor to protect us. We need to put on the armor God has given us. Ephesians 6:14-17 describes that armor, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the

breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” When we read about this armor we find out that all the protection is for the front of use. The back of us is not covered. Why? Because in God there is no need to run in retreat. The victory is guaranteed if we will just stand. When we take authority over satan he can no longer block God’s presence in our lives. God can reveal to us when satan is binding us. When we know who we are in God, we have our identity in Him, we know the authority we have over Him, and we can overcome him. Instead of his binding us, we can turn around and bind him. God’s presence is released in our lives.

We can’t fight satan unless we see his influence in our lives. Some of the times he wins because he sneaks in and we don’t see him. This can happen when we are so far from God in our daily walk that we aren’t in communication with Him. God will warn us about the traps that satan has in our lives. Sometimes, too, satan can win because he puts us down or condemns us from being able to see our right as a child of God. We have no right to take his trash. Know who you are. Make sure your life is clean of sin, and take a stand. Tell him, “Devil, you just don’t know who you are messing with.” He has to go.

As a church, your congregation needs to learn to join together to take spiritual authority. They need to learn to come together and fast and pray. When I say come together, this doesn’t just mean in the same building, but come together as one in unity, in one mind and accord, and sock it to the devil. When you let the Spirit of God rule in your midst, the gifts of spiritual discernment will operate. You will be able to identify those times that the enemy is coming against you. You will be able to jointly as a body take authority and bind this. Spirits can come against a church and destroy it and destroy the individuals in the church. Not only can they come against individuals, but the church as a whole. This is a simple example that may seem harmless, but it happened to our church. We were working on a project and it meant a lot of long hard hours. We would start, but even before we started we would get really tired, nearly too tired to continue. When we compared notes, we all felt the same way. We discerned that this was a spirit that the devil had sent against us to hinder us from working. We bound it and had all kinds of energy to finish the project. I have seen church congregations be bound by spirits of rebellion, spirits of pride, spirits of dissension, and more. I knew a church that was destroyed by a spirit of division that came against it. If a church is not walking in the Holy Ghost they will not be able to discern these things. Make sure that you as a congregation are allowing the Spirit of God to be released. Make sure that you are teaching spiritual discernment and spiritual warfare. Stand together and see the victory that God has for your body. Bind together and bind the devil.

Step 16. ***Walking in the Spirit***

God is a spirit. We can't even understand that in our human minds. He doesn't function on our level. To understand Him we have to forget what we think or feel in the flesh and submit to the understanding His Spirit gives us. We have to stop our feelings in the flesh and lean on His understanding. We have to submit our flesh and let His Spirit have control. This isn't easy. This isn't even in our nature to do. To do so we have to fill ourselves up with the things of God, His Word, fellowship with His children, allow His Spirit to move in us, obey Him, and pray. Another way to help us to get our flesh in subjection to God is by fasting. By fasting we deprive our body of the basic things it craves. This may be food or it may be other things. Sometimes we crave relaxation instead of being in service. Sometimes our favorite TV show stretches on for hours. Give it up for God. If you fast food, you can have a complete fast for a few days. If you do, be sure to drink plenty of liquids and when you go off the fast don't gorge. You can fast a total fast or you can fast certain foods you really enjoy. I no longer drink anything with caffeine or carbonation as a commitment to God. However you do it, a fast is a time to show your body that it doesn't rule. You show your flesh that the things that it craves are given up for the things of God. Our flesh can only destroy us. It is the opposite of God. The Bible even calls it an enemy to God. Romans 8:8 tells us, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Your flesh is your enemy. Your greatest enemy you will often find will be yourself. You must keep yourself, your will, your flesh under subjection to the Spirit of God.

To understand more how the flesh and spirit work and the war between the two, read Romans 7:14-25. To sum them up, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." These verses present well the problem. These verses in Romans 8:4-14 give us the solution. To sum them up, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you..." and "Therefore, brethren we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Our flesh is not good. Because we have to see things through it, we may not even see our faults and sins until they have already destroyed us, except for the Spirit of God Who reveals them to us. I have heard people say, I am good. I don't drink or smoke or do bad things. All the time their heart was full of bitterness, doubt, disobedience, rebellion by not submitting to God, and they couldn't see. We are not good at all. Our way of thinking and feeling is at it's best really bad. Our decisions are not workable. Our wisdom and knowledge are not sufficient. I see so many Christians that are trying to prove that their ideas are worth accepting, that their thoughts and

decisions are sound, that how they feel about something is important. When I see someone trying to prove themselves, I know they haven't found submission in God. I know they haven't learned what victory and power in God comes when we lay our selves, our wills, our thoughts, who we are down and take up His will, His thoughts, and who He is. We have to do as the Word of God instructs. We have to put on the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.") There is a flow in the Spirit that is like a river. When we stop striving against the current and float with the river it isn't nearly as hard to get somewhere. We have to put ourselves in neutral and flow with God's Spirit. Flesh will only strive against it. We have to walk in the Spirit. We will be operating where God intends for us to. It is easy to be opinionated and strong willed. That is Adam's nature. We inherited it in the flesh. The world brings this out even worse. When we do, we deny God's Spirit's perfect work in our lives. We only have a fraction of what God intends us to have and only walk in a fraction of His victory.

We have to do what it says to do in Galatians 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." When we read the part about lusts it is easy to think that means lust in a sexual way. Well it does, but that is only part of it. Lust means anything the body craves. It may be our appetite for food that we can't control. It may be us wanting our own will and not submitting to God. It may be our wanting a habit we can't stop. It may be an attitude that controls our life. All these things are lusts, things our flesh craves. We can't allow our flesh to control us. We have to submit our flesh to God's Spirit inside of us. Anything that controls us will be used by the devil who will use it to control us. It will be like a hook in our jaw that he just eventually reels us in with. That is why habits like smoking are so bad. Drinking is not right even if Paul did say take a little wine for your stomach sake. He wasn't talking about it in the way we do it today. I have never heard of the doctor prescribing a quart of medicine, or more. He didn't mean to drink socially, or to drink to get a light buzz, just as long as you don't get drunk. The church settled for this lie and we accepted social drinking, and now we wonder why our kids are such drug-gies. They saw their parents condone their way of getting a buzz. Have you ever wondered why you can't convince your kids that it is wrong to smoke pot when you drink? Habits and addictions are hooks. They will do you in if you don't let God deliver you. Don't excuse them away.

As a church it is important that flesh doesn't rule for the presence of God to be released. I have been to churches where a few wanted God's Spirit to be released but the majority ruled. And the majority wanted flesh. Often there will be two parts to a congregation. You'll have one part that wants a move of God, and one that doesn't. That makes it hard as pastors to deal with. As a church sometimes it is easy to get caught up in ways of the flesh and not realize it. Sometimes you can get caught up in rituals and activities that aren't spirit-led

but led by flesh. That causes the church to be bound by flesh. The Holy Ghost must have priority in the services and activities of the church. Don't let flesh rule. As a body of believers make that commitment to one another. Flow in His Spirit instead of striving against the current. It will make as much difference in your life and in your church as the difference in day and night.

Step 17. ***The Baptism of the Holy Ghost***

We can have as much of the Holy Ghost in us as we desire, submit to and obey. God's Word says He gave the Holy Ghost to those that obey Him. We need to have so much of God's Spirit inside us that it overcomes our flesh and then pours out on everybody around us. The church today often is powerless because it only has enough of God to barely get the victory, let alone change the world. We need to be filled to the brim with God's Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost or the filling of the Spirit is found in God's Word. It is a gift for the asking and seeking.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is separate from salvation. When we are saved we get a part of God's Spirit. In the Baptism of the Holy Ghost we are filled. In Acts 8:14-17 those who were already saved were filled with the Holy Ghost. (Verse 16, "For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.") This shows us that this is an experience, something that is in addition to salvation. This is an experience that is as real today as it was in the early church. Acts 2:39 tells us, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." I would say we are definitely far off from those early believers. The Bible tells us it is for us today, and I also believe it because it has happened to me and thousands others. It will happen to you if you seek God with all your heart.

The seal of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the gift of speaking in tongues. Tongues is a heavenly Holy Ghost language. It doesn't come from our intellect, but the Holy Ghost speaks it inside of us. It is literally God's prayer language. It builds our strength. Jude 20 tells us to pray in the Holy Ghost. Praying in tongues also enables us to pray when in our own minds we don't know what to pray. The Holy Ghost does and He intercedes through us. Here are several verses where praying in tongues is mentioned. Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." 1 Corinthians 12:10 in talking about the gifts given to the church, "...to another divers kinds of tongues." 1 Corinthians 14:5, "I would that ye all spake with tongues...."

Praying in tongues is hard to understand with our own minds. We have to ask God about it. I wasn't raised to believe that it was real. But I knew that there was more than what I had and I asked God for every bit of everything He had for me. He not only showed me how real it was, but gave it to me. It is a gift. If someone gave you a computer, you wouldn't turn it down just because you didn't understand how it worked. Don't turn down God's wonderful gifts because you don't understand. Trust Him. Ask Him. Seek His face about it. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the gift of speaking in tongues releases the presence of

God in your life and in your church in a very powerful and real way. It is given as a gift to strengthen and empower the church. It is needed more today than ever before. We need it to be able to be victorious the way God needs and intends us to be in these last days.

Seek this experience if you don't have it. God can explain it to you. Seek His word. It's there. It's real. It's for you. And it's for your church. I have enclosed in this chapter a chapter of my book *Walking in the Spirit*. Hope it blesses you. If you haven't read this book it is a wonderful book to guide you into the life that is found when you "walk in the Spirit of the Lord".

Trying to walk in the Spirit without having the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is like trying to race a 2003 sports car with a model T engine. You just won't have the power to win the race. I grew up not hearing about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I grew up in an area that had been blinded and bound to think that this gift of the Spirit was not real. I was taught that when you were saved, you got all of God's Spirit that there was. I was taught that after salvation, you had it all. I grew up not knowing a thing at all about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Through a miracle, God brought me into contact with a church that believed in the Baptism of the Spirit. After I received it for myself, no one could tell me that it wasn't real. It was the key that brought me victory over a life that had been bound by sin, drugs, and alcohol. The devil had worked overtime in much of my life to destroy me because he knew that I would one day serve God. Maybe you are going through the same thing. Maybe it seems like every time you try to get up, you get knocked back down. You know in your heart that you should walk up-right before God, but every time you take one step forward it seems you get knocked three back. You may be about to give up in defeat, which is exactly what the devil wants you to do. It may be that he sees that up ahead, you will bust his little kingdom wide open in some area. You may be sitting there thinking that it is hopeless. That there is no use to keep trying. You won't make it. The devil has you where he wants you. You think it is because you are worthless. It may be because you are getting ready to rise up and be what God has chosen for you to be. It is your choice. If you give up now, you will never know. Maybe the key for you to overcome is the same as it was for me-the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. When I first learned about it, I got it. I grabbed hold and didn't let go. There was none of that intellectual twisting around that a lot of people do. I knew that this was the key for a victorious life and I turned it. Even though I had grown up hearing that it was not right, when it came time for me to accept it, I knew I needed it. That settled that. Don't read about this and talk yourself out of thinking that it is real, and that it is for you. God said it is, so let that be the end of that.

Now over 25 years later, I can say that no wonder the devil tried to keep me blinded. I have been working for the Lord full time since then. Not in my own power, but in the power of God's Spirit. I had to be hungry enough to submit

myself to allow God to do things His way. I had to take Him and His Word at face value. I had to receive the gift that He had for me. I have never regretted it. God will allow His Spirit to control only the things that we allow Him to control. When we say, God, I have decided to do it your way. Come and fill me up to the brim. Then we are ready for the Baptism of God's Spirit. He fills us up all the way with His Spirit. That is what the Baptism of God's Spirit is all about.

Here is what God has to say about it in His Word. We first read about it in Acts Chapter 2. Here we read that the disciples were all gathered in one mind and accord. In verse 4 it tells us, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." What was the outcome of this? These few who were hiding in fear after the crucifixion, became bold enough and so full of God's Spirit that they turned the world upside down. Without the Baptism, they would not have endured to start the church, and keep the Gospel that was committed to us today. Verse 41 tells of the outcome of that day, "Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." This didn't stop here. We read about this throughout Acts. In Chapter 8, verses 14-17, these men received the gifts of the Holy Ghost. In Chapter 10, verses 44-48, the Holy Ghost is again on the scene filling the Gentiles. In Acts 19:1-6, these men also received the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Ghost since they had believed. These men were already saved, but they had something in addition to salvation that they were about to receive. They answered, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." In verse 6 the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. I think of myself when I read their answer to Paul, "We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost." I hadn't heard, but God found me anyway.

How do you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? I was blessed to find a church that believed this way. The congregation laid hands on me and prayed for me in the same way that Paul laid hands on the men in Acts 19:6. But I still didn't receive it that night that they prayed. Several nights later, when I was by myself, the Holy Ghost fell on me and I was filled. I prayed in tongues for the first time that night. You can receive it through the prayers of others, or you can receive it through your own prayers. It is a gift of God that He has given us to empower us against the battle of satan. It is a gift that gives us boldness in our witness, like it did those on that first day. It is for you. I have heard many people argue against the Baptism of the Holy Ghost being real. They argue that it is not for us today. When I hear this I know several things about those people. I know that they are ignorant of God's Word. In Acts 2:38-39 we read, "Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as

many as the Lord our God shall call.” I would say that means us too. I also know when I hear people argue that the Baptism is not for us today, that these people do not know God. I know that He wants the best for His children. He wants us to overcome and be victorious. I also know that we live in the last days, which has to be one of the hardest times to live on the earth. Why would God give a gift to help the early disciples, tell us about it, and then deny us the right to have it or make it so that it is not available to us who need it the most? That is not the God I know.

I think that one of the things that hinders people in receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that it comes along with the gift of speaking in tongues. For many, that is a stumbling block. This is because the devil wants to scare people away from our being able to pray in the Spirit, or pray in tongues. What it means when we pray in tongues is that the Spirit of God prays through us in His own language. He is praying directly through us using our vocal chords. We may not understand what He is saying, though sometimes He will allow us or others to interpret. Whether or not we understand, the devil knows when we start praying that something is being done to bind him and to loose the power of God on the scene. No wonder he works overtime to confuse people about this powerful gift. Have you ever wanted so badly to pray for someone but didn't know how to pray? All you could do was to say a general half way prayer, when you know you needed to do more. The Holy Ghost knows exactly how to pray in God's perfect will. When He prays through you that is a powerful prayer that will get the job done. Also, when we pray in the Holy Ghost it strengthens our inner man, Who is the Spirit of God in us. (Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." When we are filled and consumed with the Spirit of God, and we allow Him to pray in us, we are submitted to His Spirit in a way that nothing else can do. We strengthen His Spirit in us. We submit our flesh and our flesh man takes second place in our life. With all that going on our flesh doesn't stand a chance. God's Spirit rises strong in us and we take on His likeness.

Now you may interrupt me here to say, what about the people who receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and later turn their back on God, or they sin in a big way and take on a life of sin instead of a life with God? Just because you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost it doesn't make you perfect. You still have your flesh man. If you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, but the Holy Ghost is still not allowed to control your life, then flesh will. That is why it is important to allow the Holy Ghost to move in you. Pray in the Holy Ghost daily.

Don't hinder the Spirit of God when He starts to move in or through you, whether it be in church or at home. Allow God's Spirit to control. Then He will be there when you need Him. One of the greatest stories I have ever heard about the power in the prayer of the Holy Ghost is this. The Holy Ghost moved on a man and began interceding through him. The man had no idea why, but he

obeyed and yielded. God spoke to him to take note at what time this had happened. The next day he heard about a close friend who had been stabbed. That had happened at exactly the time that the man had prayed. The other man's life had been spared. Another time I heard about a man on a plane who had interceded through the Holy Ghost. After they landed, they were told of a mechanical failure that had nearly caused them to crash, but miraculously the failure had corrected itself. The man who had prayed had no idea, but God knew. Thousands of times I have heard stories about how the Holy Ghost had interceded by speaking in tongues through those who had the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The situation was corrected, the life was saved, the soul was saved, the person was delivered, or whatever need there was, it was met. There is no prayer that is more powerful than the prayer of the Holy Ghost Himself. If you do not have the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, ask God for this. Seek it. The Bible says that when we seek God, or His gifts, we will find them. Who says so? Jesus. Luke 11:9, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Read this section of scripture through verse 13. In verse 13 we read, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

Closing

I guess that you have come to the place where it is time to do something with what you have learned from this book, from this course. This book can change you, change the direction of your life, change your ministry, if you allow it to. Why? I have tried not to put in this book just my ideas. You won't find church history, or theology discussions. It just has the Word of God. What are you going to do with that? There may be some things that you might not agree with, but there will be a lot that you need to take into your spirits. Don't let the things you don't agree with hinder you from digesting the rest. Let this make a difference in the lives of those in your congregation, those you minister to, those you live around. Let it get you filled up with God's Word and Spirit, fired up, and propelled in the direction God has for you.

Sure the world has gone crazy. Sure it looks like there is no use. That is the picture the devil wants to paint. If there were no use, then we wouldn't still be here. Let me say that again to make sure you are listening. If there were no use, then we wouldn't still be here. When things are hopeless, we will be gone. God can always make a difference. His Word won't go forth void. His Spirit is still at work. We just need to be sure we are going in the same direction they are going. One day we will see it all. Right now we see through a glass darkly. Just keep on pressing on until that day when we see it all clear.

May God bless and keep you until that day. May He use you in a mighty way.

