

The Power of God's Word

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my sister who has helped me to overcome my battle with my health. I appreciate all your help more than you know. You are a wonderful life coach.

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Introduction

The inspiration for this book was born out of a time when I had a battle with the devil over my health. A lot of times God will allow me to go through a battle. He didn't cause this battle, but He allowed it and used it in a mighty way in my life. I usually find out why He did this when during the battle He leads me to write a book. The most powerful books I have written have come from the hardest battles. You see, if we are to minister a certain truth from God's Word to people in an anointed way that will change lives, we have to know that truth in the depths of our mind, heart and spirit. We have to have walked in that truth. We have to have been tried in the fire in that truth. Especially when that truth is a matter of faith. Then when we speak about it, sing about it, witness about it, write about it, preach about it, that fire will pour out and write this truth in the hearts of those who hear. The greater the battle that writes this truth in your heart, the greater the message that will be written in the hearts of others through whatever way God chooses to get it out through you, and the more powerful the anointing that touches the lives of those who receive it. The most powerful messages are born out of the most powerful trials, tribulations, and hardships.

God refines, equips, and empowers us through the fires of life. Psalms 104:4 says, "Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire." I Peter 1:7 says, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ". Zechariah 13:9 says, "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God." God uses the fire to refine us, and purify us as ministers of God. I am not only speaking to pastors, teachers, evangelists, singers, and those who stand in the pulpit, but I am talking to every child of God. Remember that we are all called. We are all chosen to do a work for the Lord, to live as a light in a dark world.

The most anointed people that I know are ones who have been through the battle. They have been through the fire. The greatest fire brings about the greatest anointing. So when I see these ministers who are puffed up in their spiritual pride, I know that they have not been through the fire. The fire humbles you. I work with ministers all over the world. In some countries and cultures, the church lifts up their elders in an unhealthy way. They put those leaders up on a pedestal, and the leaders soak up this ungodly attention. That is one of the reasons why I hate the title reverend.

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Nobody but Jesus is qualified to have that title. We are so **not** reverend. Spiritual pride is what landed the devil out of heaven into hell. Be sure to guard against that spirit.

What was my battle? Let me first talk about the natural part of my battle. I don't want to sound like some of the people that you wish you hadn't asked how they were because an hour later they will be telling you about all their complaints from their hair hurting down to an ingrown toenail, but I am telling you this so you can see the depth of the battle I went through. I also don't want to sound puffed up in my battle, but I want to give glory to God through my story.

The natural part of my battle started one summer that had record-breaking highs and humidity. I have a tendency to retain fluid. I retained a lot. I mean a whole lot. Enough to press against my insides, and this made it really hard to breathe. Especially at night, because when this happens I tend to get sleep apnea. I would wake up not breathing, and this was so bad I was afraid to go to sleep. I went about 3 months with only getting 3 or so hours of sleep a night. One of my favorite verses that I would say over and over was Acts 17:28, *For in him we live, and move, and have our being...* I was starting to put God's Word to the test in a desperate way. I was walking and living that verse. It was my anchor of faith giving me breath.

All of this caused my immune system to break down, and I got a serious problem with mrsa in a sore. I started rotting in that place which was about the size of my palm, which is what mrsa does. This caused me to get a terrible yeast breakout in a large area around that sore. Yeast actually has several functions in our body. One function is to decay our body when we die. My body thought I had died, was starting to rot, and it sent yeast there to finish up the job. I had to take a high-powered antibiotic for nearly 30 days. That set off extremely high yeast level in my whole body. Again, I wasn't sleeping because of being in so much pain.

I fought this mrsa in the natural by taking everything the doctor gave me, cleaning it out twice a day. My life started revolving around what I was doing in the natural to clear this up. But this battle wasn't a physical battle alone. It was a spiritual battle. I had gotten caught up in the physical part of it. I had done so mostly because the pain and sickness it set off consumed my life. Then dealing with all I was doing consumed the rest. Finally God got through to me to start fighting spiritually. I claimed my healing. I started standing on God's Word, and His promises that He spoke to me about my healing.

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Another verse that became my anchor was Psalms 118:17, *I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD*. One day, the sore was gone. Now mrsa doesn't do that. It doesn't leave all of the sudden like that. I knew why it did. God had healed me. Besides getting a deeper knowledge of the power of God's Word than I had, another thing I took away from this part of the battle was tried-in-the-fire understanding of the power of praise that was greater than what I had before. I won't spend time here talking about that, but it is a topic that is worthy of a whole book.

This wasn't the end of this fire. I still had a lot to learn, and a lot that was going to be written in my spirit by the Great Author. I still had the yeast, and it got worse. I did everything I could in the natural. I took medicine. My sister is a life coach, and a really good one. She helped me to change my whole life physically. I changed my diet. I changed my schedule and how I did things for a healthier routine. I started exercises, and walking regularly. I started taking essential oils and did a lot of things to build my immune system. It was a change that I had needed to make for years, but the yeast just kept getting worse. It was affecting me in a lot of ways, mentally, physically, and spiritually.

I needed to do all these physical things to bring about this healing, but it wasn't the key to deliver me from this. One of the key things I gained in my spiritual side during this part of the battle was that I disciplined my flesh. I put my flesh under subjection in a deeper way than I had ever done. It wasn't hard because I was so desperate. The foods that I stopped eating (there were a lot of them) I counted this as a fast. In other words I developed a fasted lifestyle. This was a key in fighting that spiritual battle. The main key was that I began to study, and concentrate on God's Word during the day.

One day, just as suddenly as it came, the overabundance of yeast in my body cleared up in a way that left no doubt in my mind that God had healed me once again. I rejoiced in my healing. For the first time in months I felt good. I rejoiced in my healing for a couple of weeks that is. Then one of the worst flu seasons on record hit with one of the most deadly strains of flu. I am a teacher, so I was constantly right in the middle of a shower of germs. This flu dragged me down for weeks to the place where I was so weak and worn out that I could barely go. God was getting ready to finish writing this book in my spirit.

During this time, Bishop Goad had been ministering about the power of God's Word, and the power of our own words. He had no idea about all I was going through, and how God was getting this message through to me.

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God was writing this message in my heart in a powerful way. Through the rest of this fire, I had been speaking the word over my mind and body for healing. But through this last part of the battle, God was opening up to my spirit about the power of God's Word in an even more powerful way. He began to show me that I had a curse against me and that I needed to stand up against this. When you are weak and weary from sickness, it is easy to get lulled into a state where you settle for things in a spiritual compromise. I started listening to a song *I Won't Be Satisfied* sung by Walter Hawkins and his choir. The words go like this: *Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my works in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. I won't be satisfied until I see my Jesus breaking through my skies. I won't be satisfied.* That chorus got in my spirit to the place that I was singing it over and over. You see, I had gotten to the place where I had settled for sickness. God was showing me that I don't need to be satisfied with less than His best for me. He showed me that I needed to press on for the best when I am in the battle, and not settle for ½ of a victory. That was the beginning of a drastic change.

I had changed my life in the natural to fight this fight. I then changed my life in the spiritual. I made God the focus. I worked on the spiritual part of my life as much as I had worked on the natural part. The Word of God became a focus. Instead of starting my day exercising like I had been, I started my day in the Word of God with serious study. Matter of fact, I started writing this book, and that involved a lot of research. Then while I was getting ready, instead of watching the TV, I listened to gospel music that lifted me up and started me praising the Lord. I still exercised, and did all the physical things that I had started, I just added God first. I still walked, but when I walked I prayed, and praised the Lord. I spent time in the Holy Ghost letting His fire fall in my life, praying in tongues in the Holy Ghost so that my faith was renewed. I had been strengthening my physical body, and my immune system. Now I was strengthening my spirit man.

Now I will tell you something strange about time. Before I started changing my life physically or spiritually, I hadn't done this for years because I didn't have time, or so I thought. When I started focusing on these things, I found out that I had a lot more time than I thought. When I changed my focus, I dropped a lot of things out of my life that were eating up my time. I hadn't realized it until I dropped them. When you get your priorities in line, and you let God be the focus in your life, you will be surprised how much time you have to be able to do the physical and spiritual things that you need to do to have a healthy and stronger life physically and spiritually. One of the things that came out of all this battle, and the change that God

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brought about in my life using it, was that I got rid of some addictions that were stealing my time. One example of this was that I had started using TV as a painkiller. It is addicting, and it dulls your mind and senses. One of the things I think that the devil uses to steal our time is an addiction with the TV, the internet, and social media. Having the internet on your phone is a bad idea. Constant access to instant information about everything can be addictive. Also, staying connected through social media can lead to a powerful addiction that can steal your soul.

Another reason why I had enough time to put the Lord first in my life was that I got rid of these words out of my vocabulary, and this way of thinking out of my mind. I no longer say *I can't do this because I don't have time*. I have realized that when I feel that I don't have time for focusing on God, and for listening to and obeying Him, it is time for a re-set in my life. It is time to put Him as a priority. When you do this, you will find that you have time. One of the things that I did to get more time, was that I let God's Spirit lead me to make changes that I needed to make in my life. Some were simple. I started my day listening to gospel music while I got ready for work. I used to watch TV instead. Now I am praising the Lord while I get ready. I get up earlier than I used to so that I can spend time studying my Bible instead of doing it the last thing of the day. I used to fall asleep in the pages. Now it refreshes me and starts my day focused on the Lord. I walk every day. When I walk, instead of thinking about anything I could to take my mind off my boring walk like I used to, now I pray, and praise the Lord, and get in the spirit. Running a victory lap around is a whole lot better way to end your exercise session, and my family, friends, students in the school, and church are reaping the benefits of my exercise. There are many little things like this that changed my life when I put God as my focus. Now I see that I had a whole lot more time to do what I need to do for the Lord.

When I made these simple changes, it changed the focus of life. I started doing other things this same way by developing habits that changed my focus. I started working my life around my commitment to God. I still get all the other things done that I need to do, and actually have time left over. Put God first and you'll have time for all the important things, and no time left for junk. Putting God first puts an order in your life. Try it and you will be amazed at the difference this will make in your whole life.

We need to get in charge of our life instead of letting our life be in charge of us. Number one thing is to get your priorities and focus in line. Make God number one. If you don't, your whole life will be a jumble and a mess. It is kind of like driving a powerful car. I have driven some vehicles where I

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felt like the vehicle was driving me instead of the other way around. You have to be in charge of the vehicle. You have to be in control. And you have to give that control to God. Don't let your life drive you, but drive your life. If you don't, you will surely wreck, and a spiritual wreck can be way more deadly than a natural one. These things were what I learned from my battle. Desperation drove me to make changes. Don't let that happen to you.

Now I can say that I thank the Lord and praise Him for this battle. It changed my body, my heart, my mind, and my spirit. I am ready for the next phase of our ministry that is getting ready to gear up. I have learned more about the power of the Word of God than I knew before, because I have walked it, and seen it work in my life. There were times when despair nearly overcame me. There were times that I was tempted to think that God's Word isn't working, and if it works, it isn't working for me. But at the end of this battle I knew the whole truth and nothing but the truth concerning the power of God's Word. (I do know that there is a lot more that I have only glimpsed, God's Word is that huge, and powerful. God's. It was written in my heart, mind, and spirit by fire. Here in this book I want to share this truth with you about *The Power of God's Word*.)

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Chapter 1. Introduction to God's Word

I want to spend a little time here talking about the most powerful forces in the world. Bear with me just a minute, my teacher side is going to show through, but I have a reason why I am doing this. I researched the most powerful forces in the universe, and I will share some of this with you. You will be amazed.

One of the most powerful forces is a hurricane. The strongest hurricane on record is Hurricane Patricia with 202 miles per hour winds. Another is a typhoon. One of the most powerful typhoons on record was Typhoon Nancy with 90 miles per hour winds. It was so powerful that it exerted a force that was equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the world's total electrical generating capacity. It destroyed 11,539 homes.

Another of the most powerful forces is a volcano. The most powerful eruption is thought to have been many years ago. It formed the La Garita Caldera canyon and devastated a significant portion of what is now Colorado. It left an ash deposit that covered 11,000 miles with a depth of 100 meters. The largest nuclear weapon that has been developed is the Tsar Bomb, which released three times more force than the bomb that leveled Hiroshima, Japan. This volcanic eruption was thought to have generated 5,000 times more power than the Tsar Bomb.

Another powerful force is water. Niagara Falls releases 500,000 gallons of water which crash down 18 stories into the Niagara River every second. This is enough water to fill 50 Olympic size swimming pools in one minute. The most deadly Tsunami occurred in 2004. The Indian Ocean Tsunami destroyed coastal infrastructures. It took over 230,000 lives across 15 countries and did \$14 billion damage.

Now let's switch our focus to some of the most powerful things in our universe. Of course when we think of powerful things we think of the sun that generates 1,500 times more energy than mankind uses. But that is not nearly the greatest force in the universe. Hyper novas are thought to be one of the most powerful forces in the universe. Novas are exploding stars. Some of these stars had a mass of over a hundred times larger than our sun. The force generated by the explosion of the supernova GRB970308 that was 6 billion light years away was detected on earth.

These are some of the most powerful natural forces that exist. When we read about these, we might feel very insignificant, like an ant standing in

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the path of a house-sized boulder. I want to take a minute though to remind you that you have access to a power that is far greater than all of the forces we talked about earlier. It is a force that has caused countries to rise and fall through time. It is a force powerful enough to shape events that will come up throughout eternity. It is a force that is powerful enough to reshape the heavens and the earth. It is a force powerful enough to raise the dead, and to change countless tens of thousands of lives through time, changing the course of these lives. It can be a creative force instead of being a destructive force like all those other forces we talked about. Matter of fact, this force created all those other forces. All those other forces operate according to the power generated from this source of power that has control of all those forces. It is an eternal force that will never burn out. It is not only one of the most powerful forces on earth, but one of the most powerful forces in the heavens as well. It is the power of the Word of God.

In this book we will be talking about the Word of God. We will be talking about the power of the Word of God, its characteristics, about different aspects of His Word. We'll talk about how that its power can be unleashed in our lives. We will talk about our responsibility concerning the Word of God. We will also talk about how to overcome through the word of our testimony, and how important the words are that we speak. We will also discuss how to overcome the enemy using the power of God's Word.

This book is a supernaturally powerful book that will change your life. How do I know this? Because it is full of the Word of God. I have added more scriptures to this book than any I have written. God's Word promises that His Word will work in our lives. Isaiah 55:11 says, *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.* Psalms 68:33-35 says God's voice is a mighty voice, *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.*

Why do I believe that this book will strengthen and empower you? Because I filled it with the Word of God, and I believe in the power of His Word. Read on.

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Chapter 2

How Do We Know the Bible Is God's Word?

I want to ask you a question. How do we know that the Bible is God's Word? There are several reasons why I want to look at that question. One reason is that there may be many reading this who doubt that this is true. These people will not find any of the power of God's Word until they know the truth. The only way to get rid of doubts is to find out the truth. There are many people who have a halfway faith in knowing that the Bible is God's Word. These people are always analyzing the Bible to find the things that they think are not true. These people will only halfway find the power that is in God's Word.

Then there are the people who have studied this out, and they know that the Bible is God's Word. Some of these people, though, may not have come to the realization of the power of God's Word. These people will have some of the power of God's Word working in their life, but not as much as they will when they know about it. That is what this book is about. Helping all these people to come to the knowledge of the power of the Word of God so that it can work in their life in a more powerful way than they have had before. I Thessalonians 2:13 says, *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

Another reason that we need to study how we know that the Bible is God's Word is so that we know how to give an answer to others. I Peter 3:8 tells us, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.* Sometimes we can know something and be convinced of it, but we don't have the facts that we need to be able to share it with others. This chapter will help you to be able to do so.

We will be talking in this chapter about how we know that the Bible is God's Word. Here are some general truths about the Bible that prove that it is God's Word. In just a minute we will go to the source to find out. We will go to God's Word directly. The Bible was written over a 1,500 year span for over 40 generations by over 40 authors from every walk of life. It was written in many different places, and at many different times. It was written on three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Its subject matter includes thousands of subjects. Subjects that now can't be agreed on when discussed.

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Yet there is an agreement between the writers that could only exist because God's Spirit inspired them. They agree as if one author had written what they wrote. There is a continuity that runs throughout the book. Think of this for just a minute. How many times have you met with a group of Christians, or a group of ministers, or even just with family or friends, and a discussion of God's Word broke out into an argument because you couldn't agree on an interpretation of a part of the scriptures. When you look at the facts that we mentioned about the different writers, how could they all agree? Remember, most of them wrote their part without having all the rest of the scriptures as a whole. Even if they had it all, how would they have all agreed? That isn't human nature. The only way they could have agreed would have been that the source of information wasn't human. It was divine. This is proof that the Bible was inspired by the Spirit of God. God's Holy Ghost led these writers to write what they did, each adding their part to the whole, each adding to the whole, many not even knowing that one day, there would be the Bible as we know it today.

II Timothy 3:16 tells us, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* For a blessing, go to a concordance and count how many times a writer of a part of the Bible made the statement that the Word of the Lord came to them. (A good online concordance that I love using is found at this site, www.kingjamesbibleonline.org. Another great concordance is Strong's Concordance. It is a hard copy book, which works great for study. It actually has every word found in the Bible. I think that it is available online as well, but not sure.) I searched using "word came to". When I did this, I counted 100 times that this phrase was used in the context of the word coming to someone who had written a part of the Bible, and I was only halfway through the search when I had 100. I stopped out of desperation of there being more than I could count. Now I am not talking about just the words "word came to", but I am talking about specifically that phrase used in regards to writers whose words became part of the Bible. These people didn't just write their part of the scriptures by coming up with it in their own fleshly mind. There is no way that could have happened. The Spirit of God moved on them, or in them, and they wrote what the Spirit directed.

Here is another fact that bears out that the Bible is God's Word. It was written on material that perishes easily, especially the Dead Sea Scrolls written on papyrus, yet they were preserved miraculously for thousands of years. How could this happen if God himself hadn't kept these. (Here is just a note about these scrolls. The scrolls had to be written by hand for

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thousands of years, but every copy agreed. Those who copied it were especially chosen for that task. They kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word, and paragraph. These men even counted the syllables to make sure that it was copied correctly.)

Another fact that proves the Bible is the Word of God is this. No other book has been attacked like the Bible, yet through time it has stood every test and still stands as the Word of God today. Countless generations of people have tried to prove it wrong. Many of these people have started out to claim that the Bible was wrong, and only succeeded in proving it to be right, and later accepting it as God's Word. These are only a few of the reasons why we know that the Bible is God's Word.

The number one place to go to prove that God's Word is true is by looking in God's Word. There are historic proofs as well. There are many proofs, historical and Biblical, that prove that God Himself inspired the writers of the Bible. One example that proves God inspired the Bible is the prophecies found in the scripture. There are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible. These were things that were written detailing events that happened hundreds of years later. How else could these have come to pass just as they were spoken if they weren't given by inspiration of the Spirit of God? There are historical proofs that prove that the prophecies in the Bible were written before the prophecies were fulfilled.

There is no other book that has prophecies that are proven countless times over like the Bible. There are many prophecies, but the most remarkable example is over 300 prophecies about Jesus. There are historical proofs from sources outside the Bible to prove Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled these prophecies. There is also historical proof from Jewish writings, the Jewish Talmud, that Jesus lived and fulfilled the prophecies regarding Him. Here are only a few of the prophecies found in the Bible. **I did not write out the scriptures in this section of the book. Please get out your Bible and read these. Don't just read the reference, and go on.** If you do, you will get a lot more out of this book than just my words. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 talks about several of the prophecies. The prophet Isaiah wrote this around 700 BC. Please read this section of scripture. In it we see that Jesus would be beaten beyond recognition. That He would be beaten with stripes. In Psalm 22:14-19 David wrote around 1000 B.C. that they would pierce Jesus' hands and His feet. It was written that they would divide His garments among them, and cast lots for them. I am sure that the Roman soldiers who cast lots for Jesus' robe that day had not read the scriptures. They weren't doing this to obey the scriptures. In Zechariah 9:9 Zechariah at around 520 B.C. wrote that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a

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donkey colt. Here are some more prophecies. I have written them beside of their fulfillment. Please read each of them for a blessing. Prophecy found in Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-23. Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-23. Micah 5:2-3 was fulfilled in Luke 2:4-7. Isaiah 42:6-7 was fulfilled in Luke 4:17-21. Isaiah 49:6-7 was fulfilled in Acts 13:47, 15:6-18. Isaiah 61:1 was fulfilled in Luke 4:17-21. Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled in Matthew 21:5-6. Isaiah 50:6-7 was fulfilled in Mark 14:65. Psalm 16:8-11 was fulfilled in John 20:14-30. Psalms 49:15 was fulfilled in I Corinthians 15:1-8. Isaiah 53:10-12 was fulfilled in Matthew 28:1-10.

There are countless other prophecies that are recorded in the scriptures. Some of them prophesied the rise and fall of whole civilizations and countries. Always they happened to the detail of what God's prophets had written in the scriptures. There are many events that are happening today that have been prophesied in the Bible. I have seen more Bible prophecies being fulfilled in the last couple of years, than I have seen my whole life as this world is drawing to a close. Just a note here: I was studying prophecies in Daniel concerning Persia. I had out my encyclopedia and was looking at Persian history. I had the Bible on one side, and the encyclopedia on the other. I was amazed at how events that happened long after they were written about matched the scriptures that foretold them. God set in motion things that have happened throughout history even to today by the Words that He spoke.

The greatest proof that the Bible is God's Word is Jesus' death and resurrection. It is the greatest proof of the Bible as being God's inspired Word. What other religion claims to have a risen Savior? If the Buddhists could get by with claiming that Buddha rose from the dead, they would. Why haven't they? Because he didn't. It was proven in history by many, many eyewitness accounts that Jesus rose from the dead. If that wouldn't have been so, then we couldn't claim it today. You couldn't just go around saying that somebody came back from the dead and have everybody believe it the way they believed that Jesus came back from the dead if it hadn't been proven to be true. Where do we find the account of this miracle? In the inspired Word of God.

These are only just a few of the reasons why we know the Bible is God's inspired Word. Do some research on your own. Matter of fact, if you are a student looking for a thesis or dissertation topic, this would be a really good one. Now you know more about how to give an answer for the faith that is in you concerning the Word of God.

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As an added note, let's talk a minute about God's Word in different ways than the Bible. There are three different aspects of God's Word. One is His written Word found in the Bible. Another is His spoken Word. The Words that He speaks to you in your heart, mind, and spirit. The "logos" Word is the Bible, the written Word. The "rhema" Word is what Jesus spoke. These are Greek words. When they were translated in the Bible, both were translated into English as being the word "word". But when scholars look at the original Greek they see clearly there are two types of the Word of God, the Words that were written in the scriptures, and the Words that Jesus or God spoke. Both are just as powerful. Jesus, God, and the Holy Ghost are still speaking today, and their words are just as powerful.

When we think of the power of the spoken Word, we right away think of Peter walking on the water. What made Peter able to walk on the water? We read about this in Matthew 14:28 and 29. *And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.* When Jesus said come, He spoke to Peter. That one Word enabled him to be able to walk on the water. What about all those Words that God has spoken into your heart. I have found through 35 years of working in New Life Church and Ministries that the Word of God that He speaks in your heart has the same power to create as it did when God spoke and made the world. How do we have a school program that has spread around the US? God spoke and told us to do it. Through all the battles that we have endured, we still stand after over 35 years. How do we have a college extension program that spread around the world seemingly in a very short time, that still exists today even through all the battles of the enemy? God spoke and told us to do that. We accepted Him at His Word, and obeyed where He led. That power of His Word spoken to our spirits, and our faith and obedience to that Word enabled this to come about. Our three radio stations are fought the hardest. Why are they still here? God spoke and told us to do this, and we obeyed His Word spoken to us. Our ministry is very nearly debt free even though at the time our home church is very small. How? Not because we compromise to be able to get money to survive, not because we weekly beg for money, but because we walk in the truth, in obedience to God's Word, and His Spirit, and we trusted in the power of His Word when He told us that we would have a debt free ministry. We are getting ready to start an extension school program where we help ministries to be able to start Christian schools. This program will spread just like our college extension program did. How do I know? God has spoken to us telling us to do this, and I know the power of God's Word. Does His Word just work

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for us at New Life Church and Ministries? NO. Does His Word that He has spoken have power to enable preachers, or ministers, singers alone, or does that power to enable you to do something God has told you to do work for you as well? You know the answer to that. Is that power limited by what we think we can do? Only if we let it be.

There is another aspect of God's Word. That is His Word that we speak. When we preach His Word, teach His Word, sing His Word, witness His Word, speak His Word to others sharing it with them, this is still God's Word. And this Word that we are sharing, if it is the whole truth of His word, has the same power as the Word of God, and God's Word will work. It will not come forth void. It will do what He sets it forth to do. When we speak the Word, even though it may seem that it isn't working, it is. That is just it does. What is another example of the power of God's Word when we speak it? Remember this scripture? Ezekiel 37:4 says *Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.* What was the outcome of Ezekiel obeying God, taking Him at His Word, and speaking His Words? If you don't already know the answer to that question, go to that scripture and find out.

Another scripture that talks about the power of our words is in I Corinthians 2:4, *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.* When the words we speak are combined with the power of the Holy Ghost, they will be powerful indeed.

Coming up in the next chapter, we will talk more about the characteristics of God's Word.

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Chapter 3 The Characteristics of God's Word

The best place to start with a discussion of God's Word is in the beginning. (Let me take a minute here to talk about something important. In all my books, I give these directions. When you read any Christian book, it is important that you look up the scriptures given. The most powerful part of any book is the Word of God, especially if you are reading a book about the Word of God like this one. When you read the scriptures that are given in the book, get out your Bible and read the other scriptures around it to get a better understanding of the concepts around that verse. Also, the more scriptures you read, the influence of that book in your life will be even more powerful as you read more of God's Word.) Get out your Bible as we go to Genesis 1:1-27. I am only going to write part of that scripture here, but please read all the verses. *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* Then as we read every verse that talks about the different things God made, we notice how He made what He made. The Word says that He spoke, and it was done. That is the first glimpse we get of the power of God's Word. He just said it, and it was.

Let's talk about when the beginning was. I read this for years before I got an understanding of when the beginning was that this section of scripture was talking about. It can't be at the beginning of God because God had no beginning and will have no end. Hebrews 7:3 compares Melchizedek to God as being a type and shadow. *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.* Revelations 10:6 says, *And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.* So the beginning talked about in Genesis can't mean the beginning of God, but in the beginning of this world and universe that He created.

Now let's look at verse 26. *And God said, Let us make man in our image....* I had always looked at this and wondered who **us** was. I knew it couldn't be Adam and Eve. You can tell that whoever else it was had actively participated in the creation process. But all God did was speak to create it all. So who was the other part of us, and how did they participate. You find a clue to this in another place in God's Word that talks about in the beginning. Let's go to John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* We know that God's Word was there with God, because He spoke and things were created.

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But when we look at the word *Word* in this scripture, we see that it is capitalized like it is the name of someone. Who?

When we read verses 2-5, we see clues to who that was; *The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.* We find more clues when we go on. *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* Who was the Word of God this scripture talked about? We see clearly in verse 14, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.* Jesus was the Word of God that was with God in the beginning. He became the Word that God spoke that created these things that were made.

You see, God is not bound by time. One way to explain this is that He is so big that He inhabits all of eternity. That is huge. He saw the end while at the beginning. He saw the price that would have to be paid when He created the world. He knew that a Savior would have to die for mankind. So while He created the world, that Word that He spoke also became our Savior. God and His Word are the same as it said in John 1:1. Jesus came out from God as a part of God. Through all this, we get a glimpse of how powerful God's Word is.

Let's talk about more of the characteristics of God's Word. Where do we find out about it? In God's Word, of course. Here are verses that talk about the characteristics of God's Word. We talked about God's Word in the beginning. Let's get a glimpse of God's Word at the end. We read this in Revelation 1:10-15 when John spoke it about the power of God's Word, *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.* God's voice is a great voice. There are many things that He spoke in Revelation that, because He spoke them, they will come to pass,

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have come to pass. Just as sure as the Words that He spoke at the beginning created it all, the Words in Revelation will destroy it all and make it new. These words will bring down a city from heaven. These words will put satan in a pit, and loose him again for a season, then bind him up eternally. These words found throughout the Bible will shape the events of today's world, and even shape events that will happen in heaven.

In Revelation 1:16 we read, *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.* We know that the two edged sword referred to here is the Word of God. We read that in Hebrews 4:12, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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.* We serve a mighty God who has an eternally powerful Word. The Words that He speaks both in the Word of God and the words that He speaks to our hearts concerning our lives are both equally powerful. The difference is that we have to loose the Word of God to work in our lives. We will talk more about that in a chapter coming up later.

We read in the Word of God that He will keep His Word. We read that it will not fail. Here are some verses that talk about that. Here is one of the verses that talks about how to unlock God's Word to work in our lives. Many of the promises of God have conditions such as this one. I Kings 6:12: *Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father.*

We read throughout David's Psalms that He knew much about the power of God's Word. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119 that has 176 verses about the power of God's Word. **Please get out your Bible and read that scripture for a blessing. Please get out your Bible and read that. Hey, please get out your Bible and read that.** We read in II Chronicles 6:10 that David knew much about the power of God's Word. *The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.*

We read in I Kings 8:56 that the Words He spoke through Moses did not fail, *Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel,*

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according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

We read in Isaiah 39:8 that God's Word is good. *Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.* Hezekiah was a king. It was mentioned in one place in the scripture that God healed him, prolonging his life. He said this to Isaiah when Isaiah told him about some hard things that were coming to Israel.

Isaiah 55:11 is one of my favorite verses about God's Word. To get the full effect of this I am including verse 8-13. *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. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: **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.** For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.* God's Word will not turn forth void. It will not be empty. It will perform the thing that He sends it to do. I have had times when this verse kept me going. When it seemed like the world was falling down around me, I held onto the knowledge that God's Word will work. I held onto God's Word like a buoy in the storm. It saw me through.

Jeremiah 1:12 says, *Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.* I looked up the meaning of the word hasten. It means to be quick to do something. God will be quick to perform His Word.

Luke 21:33 says, *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.* We know this because we read in God's Word that the old heaven and earth will pass away, and He will make a new one. What will perform this? God's Word. Matthew 5:18 says, *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

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A jot is the tenth letter in the Hebrew alphabet and the smallest. It was written above the line and looks to us rather like an apostrophe. A tittle is even smaller than a jot. A tittle is a letter extension, a pen stroke that can differentiate one Hebrew letter from another. One way to say this would be that even the smallest part of a word will come to pass.

Here are some more characteristics of God's Word. I Samuel 3:1 tells us that the Word of the Lord is precious. *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.* In this verse we see that in those days the Word of the Lord was even more precious because it wasn't seen. The priests were failing God and not giving His Word to His people. Isn't that true today? The truth and nothing but the truth is not preached from most pulpits. The truth of the Word of God is precious today.

II Samuel 22:31 says the Word of God is tried. His Word will keep those who trust in Him. Here again we see a verse that has conditions. If we don't trust Him, can His Word keep us? *As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.*

Psalms 33:4 says that His Words are right. *For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.* We serve a God whose works are done in truth. We can trust Him. We can trust His words to be right.

Jeremiah 23:29 says that God's Word is powerful. *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

II Timothy 2:9 says that God's Word is not bound. *Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.* We may suffer trouble because we are evildoers, filthy rags in the site of a perfect God as the scripture says. But He is perfect, and His Word is perfect, and not bound.

II Corinthians 6:7 says that God's Word is true. *By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.* This is why we have to be careful that our private interpretation of God's Word is true. We need to be sure that what we witness, speak, preach, and sing to others is the truth according to God's Word. How do we do that? We ask the Spirit of God to reveal to us if we are interpreting something wrongly. We need to ask Him to guide us in the truth. We need to keep sin out of our life so that we won't be tempted to misinterpret God's Word to others to hide our sin, or make excuses for it.

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We have seen many glimpses about the power of God's Word throughout these verses. We will talk more about the power of God's Word coming up in this next chapter.

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Chapter 4. The Power of God's Word

Psalms 29:4 says, *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.* Remember, God's voice is heard through the scriptures, through Godly anointed preaching, through faithful witnessing, preaching, and singing. We also need to remember that still small voice that speaks in our hearts and minds, even though it is a still small voice, it is a really powerful voice.

Isaiah 30:30 says, *And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.* God has a glorious voice. That glorious voice can speak judgment on a sin filled world, it has before, and one day it will on a huge scale. We read about this also in Hebrews 12:26 which says, *Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.* God's Word will speak judgment on this world. It will destroy everything, and make it all new and perfect, undoing all the mess that we have made of it.

Just as it can be the most powerful destructive force in the universe, God's Word can be the most powerful creative force. We are reminded of that in Psalms 33:6, *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.* We are also reminded of this in John 5:28, *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.* Talk about power. God's voice will raise the dead one day. All the dead. How much more powerful can something be than to be able to raise the dead? That is a true creative force, to make life where there is death. One way to think of it is this. God's anointed Word spoken to the spiritually dead has the power to raise them as well. Here is another example of God's Word raising the dead found in John 11:43 says, *And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.* Go back and read that account of Lazarus in John chapter 11. Go back and read that account of Lazarus. **Hey, go back and read that account of Lazarus.**

When we read in the Gospels about the Word of God, He had a name and a face. He also had power to recreate. He recreated lives. His name was Jesus. He raised Lazarus from the dead, but He also raised the spiritually dead, and gave them a new life. One example is the woman at the well. Read her story in John 4.

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Verse 10 gives us a glimpse of living water. *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.* This living water changed her life. When she told the others about that living water, her words changed them. His Words created new life in her, and her words about Him carried new life to others. There is power in the Word of God to recreate lives.

The Word of God started taking on a new aspect in the New Testament, one different than it had taken on before. It began to be more anointed than ever before because after Jesus died, the Holy Ghost was able to come into hearts and change lives and empower them in a more powerful way than ever before. The Word of God established the church. When the church first was established, and began to grow, we see why this happened in Acts 6:7, *And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.* We read in Acts 12:24, *But the word of God grew and multiplied.* Acts 19:20 says, *So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.* The church started, and grew in a very powerful way due to God's Word.

Get out your Bible and read the account of the how the church started. I am putting part of it here, but for a blessing, read the rest of it. Why was the church enabled to grow like it did in spite of the persecution that it was going through? Why was it able not only to overcome, but also to grow by leaps and bounds in a time of the greatest persecution it has ever endured? (Just a note: remember that the church was born in a time of Roman domination. Christians-men, women, and children-were thrown into a battle with lions in the coliseum so that thousands could watch them being torn apart. History says that to light the coliseum, Christians were tied to a stake and burnt alive. This is just one example of what they endured.) Why was the church able to be a powerful influence, and grow in the middle of such persecution? You know the answer to that if you think about it? Because Jesus spoke a promise found in Acts 1:8, *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* If the Word of God did all this back then, can't it do it now? Is the power of the Word of God that empowered the church and grew it in such a way less today than it was then? Think about it. We talked about how the Word of God spoken to the woman at the well brought about a new life.

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Acts 9:4-7 tells the story of the power of the Word of God that brought about a change to Saul (Paul). For a blessing, please read the whole account of Saul's conversion found in Acts 9. Hey, I am being polite again and asking. *And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord [said] unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.* God spoke to Saul and instantly he was changed. He was reborn, born again. He was recreated. That is the power of the Word of God. James 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.* God begets us through His Word of truth. What a powerful Word we carry in our hearts through the power of God's anointing. We need to respect it, and cherish it. We need to give our lives for it. One day we may be called on to do so.

Coming up next we will talk about how God's Word can be applied to our lives to bring us a change, and victory.

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Chapter 5. Reaping From God's Word

John 6 tells about a time when several of Jesus' followers left because they didn't believe. We read about this account in John chapter 6. You already know what I am going to tell you. Get out your Bible and read that chapter. Get out your Bible and read that chapter. **Get out your Bible and read that chapter.** Hey, don't make me yell at you next time. (☺) In John 6:67-68 we read Jesus' response to their leaving when He asked the other disciples if they were going to leave, too. *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.* What other book can you read that can give you eternal life? What other words can you preach that will give you eternal life? What other things can you sing about or witness about that can give you eternal life? The power of the Word of God can give eternal life to those who seek it, and find it, and walk in it. What a powerful influence in our lives. Get hungry for eternal life. Get hungry for the Word of God. God promises that if you are hungry, you will be filled. John 6:35 says, *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.* Matthew 4:4 says, *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* God's Word will fill your heart and soul.

One of the things that make the power of God's Word so personal is that the Holy Ghost writes God's Word in our heart. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's Word. John 14:26 says, *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* John 2:27 says, *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.* Now this doesn't mean that we don't need to learn anything from anybody else. The rest of God's Word talks about how important it is to take instruction, and to heed to the prophets. So this can't be interpreted to mean that we know everything, and aren't to learn from anyone else. It means that the Holy Ghost in us is a teacher. The anointing will open up God's Word to us. Through Him we can discern what is truth. The Bible is the only book that the author explains to the reader what was written, even though it was written thousands of years ago. It is the only book in which the author lives in the reader to be able to

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explain the book, and to write it in the heart and mind of the reader. That is a powerful thought. Here are some more verses that talk about how the Spirit writes God's Word in our hearts. Hebrews 10:15-16 says, *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.* Hebrews 8:10 says, *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.* Romans 10:8 says, *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.* Colossians 3:16 says, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...* Romans 2:15 says, *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts.* That is part of the power of God's Word, He writes it in our hearts. He also speaks it to us.

We have talked about how God's Word that He speaks to us is as powerful as His written Word. John 10:4 says, *And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.* We have talked a lot in this book so far about following the Lord, and following the leading of God's Spirit. We have talked about how the Lord's voice can empower us to do what He has set for us to do, and how His Holy Ghost will empower us to be able to do what He tells us to do. It is good to know that we can know His voice. How do I know? Because He speaks to my heart. He speaks to all of His children who will listen. And I know that He speaks and we can know His voice because His Word promises us that we can know it. (Here is a thought. We all carry the same Word in our heart. We live by the same Word. The same Word empowers us. The same Holy Ghost empowers us, and leads us. We should be like a huge, mighty army all marching to the orders of the same commander, being led by the same voice, going by the same manual.)

One of the things I love the most about God's Word is that it will cut down into you and get the junk out. Hebrew 4:12 says, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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.* My aunt used to talk about people being chunks. She said that she could tell if a person was a chunk or not by how they hugged. When I first heard her say this, I had no clue what she meant. She said that most people chunk things down in themselves, and don't deal with them. Because of that, they aren't open to love and to be loved. That is what she meant by saying

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she could tell by how they hugged if they were chunks or not. The Word of God can cut down into our heart and cut out all the things that cause us to be chunks if we let it. It can cut down into our very being and get out all the sin, and junk that we hold in and pack down. We have to let it. In John 17 we read a prayer that Jesus prayed. Verse 17 says, *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* God's Word has the power to sanctify us, to clean us up. It is like a huge eraser that wipes our sins and weaknesses away when we apply it to our lives. We have to yield to His Word for it to be able to work in us.

Here are some more things that the Word of God does. Romans 10:17 says, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Have you ever noticed that when you get too busy to read the Bible, your faith gets weak? God's Word gives us strength whether it is His written word, or His spoken word. Psalms 68:33-35 says, *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.* When we speak God's Word, we can give strength to the weary. Isaiah 50:4 says, *The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.* God's Word quickens us, makes us alive. Psalms 119:50 says, *This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.* God's Word also comforts us.

God's Word also heals. We read about this in these verses. Psalms 107:20 says, *He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.* In Matthew 8:8 we read about the account of the faith of the centurion. When He asked Jesus to heal his servant, Jesus told him that He would go to his house and pray for the servant. This was how the centurion replied to that. *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.* Through this we know that God's Word can heal. We also read in Matthew 8:16, *When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.* With His Word, Jesus cast out the devil, and healed the sick.

How do we unlock the power of God's Word in our lives? We will talk more about that in the next chapter. Here is one way. John 15:7 says, *If ye*
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abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. For God's Word to abide in us, we have to abide in Him. When that happens, it unlocks the power of God's Word in our lives. Here is my prayer for you found in Colossians 3:16. It says, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly....*

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Chapter 6. What Is Our Part

In this chapter we will talk about our responsibility to the Word. I want to start out by further talking about something that we mentioned in an earlier chapter. Let's talk more about finding time for God's Word. In chapter 1 we talked about how I learned to take the words, "I just don't have time for God's Word" out of my vocabulary. I want to talk about that more here because I think that one way the devil stops us from taking in and obeying God's Word is by filling our lives with so much clutter that we don't have time for it, or for God. Here are some things that will help you to change this.

As time goes on, I find that I am becoming more and more centered with listening to God's voice, and obeying it. I find that I put more and more focus on putting this as a number one priority in my life. I do this out of desperation. I have found that if I don't do this, nothing works out right and my day; every day, ends in chaos. When I do put listening to God's voice and obeying it as a main focus, I find that all the other details of my life fall into place. So do all the other areas of my life. I become a better wife, a better teacher, a better friend, and I have the right amount of time for all these things. These don't control my life, they aren't a focus of my life, but they are a vital part of my life. There is a difference though. God is my focus. Serving Him is my focus.

I have written this next part in chapter 1, but I want to repeat it here because it will better help you to understand what I am talking about. The next paragraphs are quotes from chapter 1. To fight my battle with my health, I had changed my life in the natural. It wasn't working. I then changed my life in the spiritual. I made God the focus. I worked on the spiritual part of my life as much as I had worked on the natural part. The Word of God became a focus. Instead of starting my day exercising like I had been, I started my day in the Word of God with serious study. Matter of fact, I started writing this book. Then while I was getting ready for school, instead of watching the TV, I listened to gospel music that lifted me up and started me praising the Lord. I still exercised, and did all the physical things that I had started, I just added God first. I still walked, but when I walked I prayed, and praised the Lord. I spent time in the Holy Ghost letting His fire fall in my life, praying in tongues in the Holy Ghost and my faith was renewed. I had been strengthening my physical body, and my immune system. Now I was strengthening my spirit man.

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Now I will tell you something strange about time. Before I started changing my life physically or spiritually, I hadn't done this for years because I didn't have time. When I started doing these things, I found out that I had a lot more time than I thought. When I changed my focus, I dropped a lot of things out of my life that were eating up my time. I hadn't realized it until I dropped them. When you get your priorities in line, and you let God be the focus in your life, you will be surprised how much time you have to do the physical and spiritual things that you need to do to have a healthy and stronger life physically and spiritually. One of the things that came out of all this battle and the change that God brought about in my life using it was that I got rid of some addictions that were stealing my time. One example of this was that I had started using TV as a painkiller. It is addicting, and it dulls your mind and senses. One of the things I think that the devil uses to steal our time is an addiction with the internet, and social media. Having the internet on your phone is a bad idea. Constant access to instant information about everything can be addictive. Also, staying connected through social media can lead to a powerful addiction that can steal your soul.

Another reason why I had enough time to put the Lord first in my life was that I got rid of these words out of my vocabulary, and this way of thinking out of my mind. I no longer say *I can't do this because I don't have time*. I have realized that when I feel that way it is time for a re-set in my life where I put God as a focus, and obeying Him and serving Him as a priority. When you do this, you will find that you have time. One of the things that I did to get more time, was that I let God's Spirit lead me to make changes that I needed to make in my life. Some were simple. I started my day listening to gospel music while I got ready for work. I used to watch TV instead. Now I am praising the Lord while I get ready. I get up earlier than I used to so that I can spend time studying my Bible instead of doing it the last thing of the day. I used to fall asleep in the pages. Now it refreshes me and starts my day focused on the Lord. I walk every day. When I walk, instead of thinking about anything I could to take my mind off my boring walk like I used to, now I pray, and praise the Lord, and get in the spirit. Running a victory lap around is a whole lot better way to end your exercise session, and my family, friends, students in the school, and church are reaping the benefits of my exercise. There are many little things like this that changed my life when I put God as my focus. Now I see that I had a whole lot more time to do what I need to do for the Lord.

When I made these simple changes, it changed the focus of my life. I started doing other things this same way by developing habits that changed my focus. I started working my life around my commitment to
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God. I still get all the other things done that I need to do, and actually have time left over. Put God first and you'll have time for all the important things, and no time left for junk. Putting God first puts an order in your life. Try it and you will be amazed at the difference this will make in your whole life.

We need to get in charge of our life instead of letting our life be in charge of us. The number one thing is to get your priorities and focus in line. Make God number one. If you don't, your whole life will be a jumble and a mess. It is kind of like driving a powerful car. I have driven some vehicles where I felt like the vehicle was driving me instead of the other way around. You have to be in charge of the vehicle. And you have to give that control to God by yielding to His Spirit and letting Him guide you every day. Don't let your life drive you, but drive your life. If you don't, you will be out of control, and a wreck in your life will likely happen. All these things about having time were what I learned from my battle. Desperation drove me to make changes. Don't let that happen to you.

Now let's talk more about taking our time back. One of the keys to finding time for the important things is to break bad habits and build new ones. I never had quality study time to read my Bible. I would put it last, and try to study when I was laying in the bed at night. How many have tried this? Well, it doesn't work very good does it? I would read a few chapters out of guilt, because I knew I needed to. I would usually fall asleep in the middle of it. I wouldn't spend time seeking the Lord for the Word that I needed for my day. I couldn't do any different because I didn't have any time. That is what I thought. Until I made one simple little change. Now I get up 1 hour earlier and spend that time in quality time with the Lord and His Word. This has changed my day in tremendous ways. It starts my day focusing on Him, and His Word. It sets the tone of the rest of my day. I find I focus on Him a lot more often. This new habit changed my day.

It is important to develop these habits that change the focus of your life. It is important also to teach your children how to focus their lives around God, and how to cut the junk out of their lives. If you don't, then their life will be consumed with junk that can destroy them. (Just a note: if you are letting junk consume your life, then they will pick up this, and it will become a part of their lives. You may watch these things destroy their lives one day, knowing that you were partly to blame.) Guide your children into building habits that give God time, and into breaking ones that cause clutter in their lives.

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One example of helping your children make God the focus of their lives comes from my childhood. We would spend lots of time at my grandparents' house. Also, during the summer, we got our own week with them. At 7:00 every night we would always have devotions together, and I mean always. No matter what was going on, we had devotions at 7:00, that was God's time and it was dedicated to Him. We would read the Bible out loud together, and pray together. We would get on our knees and pray. We'd often get around the piano and sing hymns.

Now we didn't like doing this at all. It was something that we didn't do at home. We would complain, but we knew better than complain too much, because it wouldn't do any good. It wouldn't change a thing. We knew we had to do this, and we knew that it was good for us because they told us. We would just mumble and grumble, but do it anyway.

Through the years, I have thought a lot about this. I have been very thankful for that example that was set for my life. It taught me so much. The Bible reading and prayer was important, but more important was this example that later led me to set habits in my own life that made God a focus. I hear parents say today, "I don't want to make my children have devotions as a family, (or do anything for God as a family, sometimes even go to church) because if they don't want to do it, and I make them, then they will rebel against it." I am here to tell you that kids do not want to do what is good for them, and if it requires anything but making themselves be the focus, they will rebel against it. But if you don't make them, they will grow up without having this focus in their lives, and they can be destroyed because they don't. My grandparents made me. I knew I couldn't get by with not doing it. I am so glad that they did. I don't have any children, but my sisters did, and their children had children. Knowing the importance of making time for God has been passed down to them. All because my grandparents made serving God a priority in their home.

Deut. 11:18-20 says, *Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.* We have talked about how important it is

to build a respect and understanding of God's Word in your children. You can only do that if they see you respecting and honoring God's Word in

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your own life. Why should you do this? So that your children, and their children, and your children's children can be blessed. Wow. How important is that?

Let's turn our focus to the Bible. Here are lots of verses that talk about our part concerning the Word of God. What are our responsibilities? The first responsibility that we have is to hear the Word of God. If we don't hear it, or hearken to it, we can't even have it. Sometimes hearing will come from reading the Bible, sometimes from listening to others like preachers, or teachers, or we hear the Word of God inside our hearts, when God speaks directly to us.

When we think about verses in the Bible that talk about the Word of God, right away we think of the longest chapter in the Bible. Psalms 119 has 176 verses about God's Word. Read it for a powerful blessing. Hey, remember what you are supposed to do when I say that (☺). Let's look at some highlights from 119 that talk about our part, or our responsibility regarding God's Word. One of the keys to unlocking this section of scripture is to realize that most of it is written as a conversation with God.

I am only putting a part of these here. Look through here for keys for your responsibility, your part, concerning God's Word. We know that David had unlocked the power of God's Word in his life. Not only that, I Samuel 13:14 tells us that David had found God's favor. How do we know? God said it Himself. God called *David a man after my own heart. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.* Now reread Psalms 119 and see if you can find clues about how to unlock God's Word, and clues on how to find favor with God.

Now let's talk about a few of the parts. I am going to put a section of Psalms 119, and after each section we'll look for clues about what we can do to unlock the blessing of God's Word in our own lives. We won't do the whole chapter, but only certain sections. Verse 5-6 says, *O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.* Verse 11 says, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.* Verse 13-16 says, *With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.* When we read this section of scripture

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looking for clues, we see the following phrases that tell a lot about David's heart concerning God's Word. We read that his ways were directed to keep God's statutes. He wasn't just a reader of the Word, but a doer. Because of this, God's Word did not make Him ashamed, because he respected it for real, in other words, he didn't just talk it, but he walked it. His respect for God and His Word prompted him to do so. We see that David hid God's Word in his heart so that he wouldn't sin against God. He declared God's judgments with his lips. He confessed them with his mouth, declaring them to be true, declaring them to others. He accepted the Word of God as being God's judgments. David rejoiced in the Word of God as much as he rejoiced in riches. The Word of God had great value to him. He mediated in the precepts, and respected God's ways. Not only did He respect them, but also He delighted in God's Word. He said that he would not forget them, but we get a feeling that this isn't just that he would forget them, meaning letting them leave his mind for good, but we get the feeling that he is saying that he wouldn't forget to meditate on them even for a moment. The rest of Psalms 119 bears this out.

Let's look at Verse 20 –21, *My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.* Let's continue with verse 24. *Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.* Verses 30-35 says, *I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me. I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame. I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart. HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.* We read in this section that David's soul longed for God's judgment all the time. We are living in a time when it is made to seem bad to rejoice in God's judgment. It isn't bad when we rejoice that the proud that go against God's commandments will face God's judgment. God is a righteous God. His righteousness doesn't wink at sin, but it punishes it. I am thankful that we serve a righteous God. If He wasn't a righteous God, we would never know where we stood. We can count on His righteousness. When we read on in that section we read that David chose God's ways and judgments, and stuck to them. *I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart. HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.*

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Let's continue with verse 24. We see that the Word of God was David's delight and his counselor. He looked to God's Word to counsel him, and he delighted in it. Do you delight in God's Word enough to make it a focus in your life? I used to force myself to read it every day, because I felt like I had to. Then I started rejoicing in it. Now it isn't drudgery, or a duty. It is a delight.

Now let's look at verses 42-48. We see that David was reproached for God's Word, and had an answer to those people because of his trust in God's Word. He prayed that God not take His Word out of his mouth because of his hope in the Word, so that He could keep God's Word forever. David talked about how he found liberty, by seeking God's precepts. He found freedom by obeying God. He vowed to talk about God's Word to everyone, even to kings, and not be ashamed to do so. He talked again about his delight and love in God's commandments, and that he would meditate in them.

Now the focus here is on God's commandments, not just on His Word. It is on what God tells him to do in His Word. He delighted in doing what God commands us to do in His Word. If we aren't careful, we delight in all the promises, but not in the commandments that demand us to do something. We want to shout in victory, but not do anything that demands obedience or sacrifice. David wasn't that way.

We'll continue with verse 81. *My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.* Verse 111-113 says, *Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end. SAMECH. I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.* Verse 148 says, *Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.* David says that his soul fainted for God's salvation. Not only was God a focus in his life, but also we read throughout the Psalms that David sought God's Word as a daily bread taking his nourishment through God's Word as seriously as he took his daily nourishment. Then he makes the statement that he had inclined his heart to perform God's statutes for eternity. He isn't just committing to keep God's commandments on earth, but for eternity. To be able to say this, he has to know that he has eternity with God. How does he know with such a certainty? Because of the Word that he followed so closely.

Now let's continue on to other scriptures that talk about our responsibility to God's Word, and how that unlocks it in our lives. These scriptures in

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this part talk about how we need to hear, and hearken to God's Word. Hear and hearken have just a little different meanings. Hear means to take something into our ears. Hearken means to take it to heart. Psalms 103:20 says, *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.* Even the angels hearken to God's Word and obey. Exodus 15:26 says, *And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.* In this verse God tells us not just to hearken, but to diligently hearken, and gives promises if we keep His statutes. Isaiah 28:23 says, *Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.* Here we see that we are to give Him our ear meaning have in our nature the inclination to listen to Him. We are to listen to Him, which means that we are to hear Him with our spirit, and we are to hearken to Him, take His Words into our heart.

John 18:37 says, ... *Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.* In this verse, Jesus Himself says that if you are of the truth you will hear His Word. How do we avoid being led aside by falsely interpreting the Word of God? Walk with Jesus and seek His truth. Hebrews 3: 15 says, *While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.* This tells us to hear today, and not harden our heart against what God commands us to do. This is talking both about His Word, and the Word that He speaks to your heart telling you to do something. Job 37:2 says, *Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.* This tells us to hear attentively His voice that He speaks, the words coming out of His mouth. Acts 17:11 says, *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* Those that were nobler were they that were ready to receive the word, and who searched the scriptures daily.

These scriptures talk about things that we need to do concerning God's Word. I am not explaining each of these because they are evident. John 8:31 says, *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.* II Timothy 2:15 says, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* Deuteronomy 11:18 says, *Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as*

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frontlets between your eyes. II Timothy 1:13 says, Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. We need to be like Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 18:4, And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. We need to make our minds and our heart that we will enquire at the Word of the Lord TODAY. Let Jehoshaphat's prayer ring in your heart. Enquire at the Word of the Lord when? TODAY.

We have talked a lot about obedience to God's Word, both His Written Word, and the Word that He speaks to our heart. This is a key to unlock much of God's promises and His Word in our hearts. We see how important this is in this section of scripture about Abraham. We read his story starting with Genesis 12. God told Abraham to leave his home, and everything familiar, and go somewhere. He didn't even know where he was going for a long time. He just had to listen to God's directions for each day. We read the outcome of Abraham's daily obedience and sacrifice in Genesis 22:18. *And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. Verses 26:2-5 says, And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. The nation of Israel stands today as a result of Abraham's obedience, and as a result of God's promises. It has stood through time as the "apple of God's eye". How was all the seed of all the nations of the earth blessed by this promise? Jesus was born from the seed of Abraham.*

Here are promises for us if we obey God's Word. Jeremiah 7:23 says, *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. Jeremiah 26:13 says, Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you. Deuteronomy 28:1-4 says, And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

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Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. James 1:23 says, *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.* Isaiah 50:10 says, *Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.* We need to obey God's Word—both those words found in the Bible and those He speaks to our hearts and minds.

If we aren't taking in God's Word, then we will have nothing to give to others. If we aren't yielding to and obeying God's spoken Word to our heart, we will only be a hindrance to those we love. If we aren't living God's Word, we will be fit to be cast on the dunghill and thrown out with the rest of the manure and garbage. Who says? Jesus said it in Luke 14:34-35, *Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.* Be salt to those around you. When we do carry the Word of God to His people in truth, then those around us will be changed.

Just like there are promises if we take in and obey God's Word, there are promises of what will happen if we fail to do so. Psalms 81:11 says, *But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.* We need to be very careful that we are not like those who fail to listen and obey God's Word. Jeremiah 18:10 says, *If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.* Numbers 15:31 says, *Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.*

We need to be careful not to rebel against God's Word. I Samuel 15:23 says, *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...* Psalms 106:24 says, *Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word.* We need to be careful to believe His Word. John 12:48 says, *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.* We need to be careful not to reject His Word.

The Word of God is the Word of God. The whole truth of the Word of God is the whole truth. Sometimes we fail to believe the whole truth. One

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example is the teaching found in God's Word about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues. I grew up in a denomination that failed to teach this. They did not receive it, and so they did not teach it. That didn't change the fact that it is very much in the Bible. It changed my life when I found out about this truth. (If you don't know about this please read my book, *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*.) The traditions of my church that I grew up in made this part of God's Word of none affect. Mark 7:13 says, *Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.* We have to take the whole truth of the Word of God, and not sort out chunks of it according to the traditions of our denomination. If we don't have the whole truth and nothing but the truth, we will be bound in lies, thinking that we are free. We will be crawling on the ground excited for the crumbs that we find, when over our head is a banquet table we don't even see.

In the chapter coming up, we will talk mainly to ministers. But I want to remind you, if you aren't a minister, you are still called to spread God's Word. We are all called to be witnesses. We are all called to minister in some way or other. We read about that in Psalms 103:21 says, *Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*

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Chapter 7. Tending the Seed

Let's talk some more about our responsibilities as ministers. (Just a note: If you aren't a minister don't skip this part. We are all created for a purpose. We are all given gifts to serve the Lord. We are all called to be witnesses.) As ministers of the Word, we have to be very careful. We are in charge of something that is very precious to God. It is very precious to Jesus who died for it. It is very precious to the Holy Ghost who spends much time taking care of it. It is the church, the flock, the lambs of God. In John 10:11 Jesus says, *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.* Verse 14 says, *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.* Acts 20:28 gives us these instructions as ministers, *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.* Zechariah 9:16 says this about God's flock, *And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land.* Isaiah 40:11 says, *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.* We need to be as careful with His precious sheep as God is.

We also need to take seriously our responsibility to those who are not saved. We have a responsibility to take God's Word to the lost. We have to tend the flock we are responsible for, but we are to take seriously ministering to the lost. We need to pray for the lost family and loved ones of those in our flock. We need to see those that need the Lord in the community, and witness to them. In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd left the 99 in the fold to search for the one who was lost. Luke 14:20-23 says, *And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

As ministers we are called to be watchmen. I see so many ministers that have given up on declaring the whole truth of God's Word. They preach watered down messages, because they are afraid to rock the boat. Sad to say, many of them do this because they want to draw huge crowds and

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lots of money for their church. Some of them do this because they have convinced themselves that this is the only way for their church to survive. If you preach the truth, and obey God, He will take care of the money.

We are responsible to declare the truth. Ezekiel 33:3-9 talks about the watchman upon the wall. *If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.* After reading this, how important is it to continue to preach the whole truth?

When we minister, we need to be careful that we speak the whole truth of the Word of God, and nothing but the truth. It is the truth that will set people free. John 8:32 says, *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* If you don't minister the truth, neither you nor the flock will be set free, and the price that you will pay could be your eternal soul. I think that the most tormented people in hell are those ministers that are doomed for eternity to see the suffering of those who were deceived by their wrong teaching. I Corinthians 4:1-4 says, *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.*

II Corinthians 6:2-4 gives this Word to ministers (remember-we are all ministers) *Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...* I am reminded of the many times when a big name preacher fell and the church as a whole had to go through having their reputation smeared by the world. I am reminded of the many times when I have heard the testimonies of

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people who told me, “I quit serving the Lord because I was hurt by a pastor, minister, or brother or sister in the Lord.” When they told what had been done to them, I was angry. We need to be careful with the sheep, not only the Word we carry to them by our mouth, but also the Word we preach through our lives.

If we try with our whole heart to take the truth of the Word to God’s people, He makes us these promises. Hebrews 1:7 says, *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.* II Corinthians 3:6 says, *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. He will make us able ministers through the power of His Spirit.* Then we will be able to do what Paul told Timothy in II Timothy 4:2, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* It is important to seek the anointing of God. Only through His anointing will lives be touched and changed, the people be healed, delivered and saved. Seek God’s anointing. Study about this. Seek to please God, and obey Him, then the anointing will be in your life. If you don’t have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, then it is important that you receive this wonderful gift. It will empower you. For more about this, study your Bible. Also, I have a book titled *The Baptism of the Holy Ghost*.

We need to be careful to stand up for the whole truth of God’s Word. Luke 9:26 says, *For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels.* We read about how important this is in Ezekiel 13:22. *Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life.* We mentioned earlier how we live in a world where it is not popular to tell the truth. God charges us to do this, however, as ministers and workers in God’s kingdom. There are so many people who speak the Word of God today and pervert it. They speak against those who are standing up for the truth, those who are telling people that they are sinning, and offering deliverance through the Word of God and Spirit of God. The church has come into a sad, sick, compromised state.

We are responsible, and held accountable by God, to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The world wants us to shut up, and not tell it. This is an excerpt from my book *The Greatest Lie Ever Told*. One of the greatest sermons that I have heard preached about “the greatest lie” was one of the shortest sermons I ever heard. This little

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sermonette came from a highly unlikely source. But this little sermon gave me an illustration that I have used for years to open up people's eyes. It was actually told to me by an alcoholic who came to our food bank for a box of food. Here it is in his words. "I have had to come to the food bank for a box of food because I am an alcoholic. I know that God can help me to be delivered from this. I have gone to most of the churches in this area to find God's help, and to find their help. I know that if I can get in a church that has the Spirit of God moving in it and His Word preached, I can get delivered. But the churches that I have been in tell me this. They say that they love me like I am. They tell me that God loves me like I am. They tell me that I am welcome to come there and be like I am. I don't want to be like I am. I want them to tell me how to change, how to be set free from this. I want to be in services where God's Spirit can deliver me, but they don't have God's Spirit in there. I want to hear God's Word preached to give me strength to overcome this. They have some kind of teaching, but it isn't God's Word. I have tried most of the churches around here, and they don't have any of this. They want to counsel me and tell me what the world tells me about how to deal with this, but I don't want to deal with this. I want to be set free from this."

Wow. That really opened my eyes to what was going on in the church world in our little community. I work with churches around the world. Sad to say, I hear this report world over. What has happened to the church? How many people have given up coming to the church to get set free because all we have to offer them are watered down truths, and we might as well call it as it is, they are lies? How many people have given up coming to the church to get help because God no longer is there, His presence, His Spirit, no longer comes? Why does His Spirit no longer come? Sure, in some churches you have an emotional high that gets pumped up by those who are in the flesh working up a buzz to entice people to their services. This isn't the Spirit of God that delivers, strengthens, saves, and heals. Instead, it is a cheap imitation. We don't preach God's Word. Sad to say, it is because we were told that we don't want to offend anyone. So we stopped telling people that sin was wrong, and how to be delivered from it. I believe that all of this has come about because of the greatest lie ever told.

I was talking to a lady one day. I had known her daughter years before that. I asked her how her daughter was. She told me this. "She is doing really great. She has become a man. She/He has a significant other in her life. She/He is going to a church here in the area. They have accepted them like they are. They have welcomed them like they are. She/He is doing well."

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What a mixed up world we live in! What a mixed up church world! What hope does this couple have of being set free from the mess they are in, if the church doesn't tell them the truth. You can bet that this particular church doesn't tell them. It is one of the biggest churches in the area. People flock to this kind of stuff, because they are taught that they can do anything that they want to, and still get to go to heaven, according to their teaching. They are taught that they can have whatever life style they want, and God is pleased with that. They are told that God wants them to be free to choose whatever lifestyle they want, and He loves them and supports them in that decision. This church's pastor, teachers, and deacons, aren't going to tell the truth, even if they know it, because they like the crowds, and the money that the crowds generate. The people want to believe that God loves them like they are and leaves them that way, because they don't want to change. But this isn't what God's Word says. This isn't what the truth says.

We had better find out the truth, and walk and talk it, because a lie will only send us to hell. And yes there is a hell and the wages of sin is eternal death, eternal separation from God in a burning fire. You can pretend that this couple in this illustration will have a well adjusted, peaceful, emotionally sound life because this is the life style that God has ordained for His people to have and it will work out for their best, but is that the truth? Can you tell me that the wages of sin is not death? Who is there to tell them that this disaster in their life is not what God wants? Who is there to tell them that there is hope for them? Who is there to present the truth to them? Who is there to tell the world that this is wrong, and there is a better way? Who is there to tell them that God's Spirit can deliver them, that there is hope for them to be free? It takes the Spirit of God and the preaching of the whole truth of God's Word to open our eyes. Who is there to allow God's Spirit to come in the midst to convict them, to show them their needs, and to deliver them?

I put this verse earlier but it is definitely worth repeating. I'll start with Ezekiel 3:17. *Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.* Ezekiel 13:22-23 says, *Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.* God has charged all of us to witness the truth to those around us. Instead we wink at sin, and tell those who are sinning that it is fine to sin. Then we tell the righteous who are standing up for the Word of

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God that they are not right by doing so. There are many churches that are caught up in this doctrine. These churches may seem to grow because so many people go there. This verse tells us though why God's Spirit isn't there. It also tells us why the people who are sincere in heart toward Him won't stay there. He will deliver them out. He will set His people free from this sort of church. Do you really want to go to a church or have a church that would cause God to say this about you and yours???

The Word of God is a seed. We are all tending to that seed. I want to close this chapter with a section about our part of tending to the seed. The Lord showed me something that really changed my life. He showed me the world, and there were little mounds of something that were rising up in different places around the world. There were people working at those little mounds that were coming up where those people were. Those mounds started to grow up. As they started to rise up, you could begin to see that they weren't separate little mounds, but they were the surface part of a huge seed that was showing above the ground. There was one seed, not a bunch of little seeds. The workers were all working on one thing, not a separate bunch of things. As this huge seed grew even more, as it rose up higher, it began to fill up the whole earth until there was nothing but the seed. It filled the earth, and heaven. This seed was the Word of God.

If you are earnestly walking in God, listening to Him, obeying His voice, and letting His Spirit guide and anoint you as you work for Him, then we are all working on the same seed. We may each be working on our little part, but it is the same seed. It is the seed that will eventually come up and take over the whole heaven and earth. That is what that seed is meant to be, just like a seed in your garden grows, that seed will grow. We all tend to it, but God is the one that causes it to grow.

Don't get so proud about your little part of the Seed that you are tending. Don't get lifted up in yourself, because your part of that Seed seems to be doing well. Don't go off to yourself in your little corner of the world, and think that you are tending to something all by yourself, and don't let the devil isolate you into thinking that you are all that there is, and you are doing this all by yourself. Also, you can't beat yourself all up because it seems like God isn't blessing your labor like He is doing others. After all, if you are tending to the Seed, the Seed will grow, whether you see it growing or not, it will do what it is supposed to do. All God's children are one, and we are working on the same Seed. He is doing the watering, and the Seed is doing its own growing just like Seeds do. So we can't get proud of what we are doing, and we can't be all down on ourselves because it seems like it isn't working. Get your focus off of yourself, and

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focus on the seed. That is our job. Be proud of the Seed. Be proud of the work the Holy Ghost is doing. Be proud of what that Seed will one day do. One day, and I don't think that it will be very long from now, when you look around you, there won't be anything in heaven and earth that won't be a part of that Seed.

One of the main places that we need to tend to the Seed, and that is one place that we often neglect, is in our own heart, mind, and lives. Is the Seed of God growing and flourishing in your own heart and mind? Are you tending that part of the Seed? Are we working to tend the Seed in the hearts and lives of others around us? Are we diligently, patiently working to see the fruits of the Spirit and the Word of God coming up in the lives, hearts, and minds of those who are put in our care? The Bible says that we are to tarry with them until Christ be formed in them. That takes patience, that takes continuous labor, and that takes dedication to the people that we are working with. Tarrying means that the seed doesn't just jump up all of the sudden. If we don't see that seed jump up to perfection in someone right away, we often give up on that person. We don't tend to the seed that God has planted in their life. We need to continue tarrying with them until we see the fruits of our planting. Just a note here: We need to be careful, however, that we don't let the devil send us someone who is not sincere in seeking God, so that we get over hyper-focused on that one person to the point of neglecting our flock.)

Remember, it isn't your Seed; it is God's seed. It will do the thing that it is created to do, it will grow. It will grow until there is nothing left but that Seed. We serve a mighty God. Let's all be about our Father's business, and tend to the seed.

Tending the Seed

There's a gardener in a garden working diligently.
Bent over in his labor, working so hard you see.
His focus is on the thing he works there to tend
His job, his heart's vocation, is tending to the seed.

That seed began to grow as seeds are meant to be.
But this seed was oh so different as all began to see.
This seed rose up around the world from earth to heaven bound
Till nothing else was left, only the seed was found.

So give praise to the Father, and give praise to the Son.
Give them all the honor for the work that they have done.
Give place in your heart for this thing to be.
Give you life to do your part, tending to the Seed.

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Chapter 8

The Power of Speaking God's Word

Proverbs 18:21 says, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.* To illustrate this, I am going to tell you a little story about something that happened to a friend of mine. At the time, their church was going through a building program. There was a bulldozer working outside of the church. She saw it and said, "Look there, that bulldozer is going to run into the church." The bulldozer wasn't about to do that, at least then. But it did. God had been trying to teach her about the power in the tongue, the power that the words we speak have on our lives. Every time I think about this topic, I think of that story. In that first chapter of this book (and throughout it) I talked about how I learned in a deeper way the importance of a positive confession, (speaking faith, speaking God's Word over a situation claiming victory instead of defeat). This is a topic that I am still learning. We need to remember before we speak that there is life or death in the power of the tongue.

Take, for example, those people that you know who are always confessing defeat, or sickness. There are some people that you shouldn't ask how they are doing because they will take an hour to tell you everything that is wrong with them. They may only have a hang nail, but they will spend an hour telling you how that hangnail is surely going to put them in their grave. These people like this never seem to have victory, never seem to be happy. Instead, it is just like their negative confessions, negative words they speak as well as their negative thoughts, paint a target on themselves for the devil.

We need to be careful not just of the words that we speak, but the words that we think. I have known a lot of people who had fear of cancer all their lives. For years they would confess that they knew that they would have cancer because their mother, dad, granddad, great granddad, or whoever had it. It was no surprise to me when I heard that these people had cancer. They had been working on it for years by giving into fear, and by confessing it over their lives, and worrying about it, going over and over these negative confessions in their mind. I believe that many people actually die before their appointed time because of the words that they speak. There is power in the tongue over life and death.

We need to confess healing instead of sickness, not only over our own bodies, but also over those we love. If we are a person that worries a lot, and our minds are filled with doubt, and our confessions are filled with

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doubt, then when someone that we love is going through a physical battle, if we aren't careful we will start speaking sickness over them. Our words and our attitude of fear will cause them to have a harder battle, and may even cause them to be sick. What someone confesses over us is hard to overcome. If you don't believe this, then think of the last time that you were feeling a little bad, but someone came up to you and said, "Wow, you look terrible. Looks like you are really coming down with something." Right away you felt worse. The words that are spoken into our minds, hearts, and spirit affect us more than we know.

There are many such examples. One is with our finances. We need to speak financial blessings over our finances instead of speaking ruin when we are going through a financial battle. Have you heard people say, "When it rains it pours. When one thing breaks, here comes something else that breaks. I can't get my finances out of the hole for anything." They are planning on having problems, and confessing that they will have them. God's Word promises we can have financial blessings. We need to speak financial blessings instead of defeat. We also need to speak financial blessings instead of defeat over those around us. If we follow this truth set up in God's Word, then the church would really be blessed. So would our families as well as our own pocket books.

We need to speak God's Word and His promises over us, and over those we love instead of defeat in all areas. We need to speak words of encouragement. It is human nature to be negative about those around us. It is easier to find fault in those around us instead of finding the good things and concentrating on them, encouraging these to grow by our thoughts and words toward others. When we constantly tell others about their faults, it is almost like we speak a curse against them, putting up a mountain against them that will be hard to overcome. Ephesians 4:29 says, *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.* I think that corrupt communications would be negative communications. Let your words edify others, and minister grace to them. (By the way Matthew 7:3 says, *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*)

Start speaking positive. Start speaking faith. Start speaking God's Word. See how this changes your life. You will be amazed. Here are more scriptures about the power of speaking positive, and the power of speaking God's Word. Revelations 12:11 says, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.* This tells how to overcome the devil by the word of our testimony. We will talk more about

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overcoming satan in the next chapter. Mark 11:22-23 says, *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.* Wow, that is powerful. Read the 11:20-26 for the whole story here around this verse. What we say will come to pass if we have faith.

Philippians 4:8 says, *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* This scripture takes it even further. It says what we are supposed to think about. Good things, things worthy of praise. Think on these things. Talk about a powerful key to unlocking mental health.

So be aware of what you are confessing. Be aware of how you are thinking. These things will change your life, and the lives of others around you.

I want to close this chapter by talking about another aspect of speaking the Word. I want to address this part of the chapter to those who are called to preach, but who are finding it hard to obey the Lord. I really felt led to include this part, and I pray that it make a difference to someone who is feeling led to preach, but you are afraid to start. The enemy will try to make you think that you can't do this, especially if you have a great respect for the Word of God. I can remember when God called me to help start our Christian school. I told Him that I couldn't do that, because I didn't have what it took to do this. I told Him that I wasn't able to do that. I will never forget the Words that He told me. He said, "I created the heavens and the earth. How dare you tell me that you can't do what I have called and ordained you to do." That was 29 years ago. Now we have a school program that reaches around the US, and we are helping to start other Christian schools. We have a college program that has over 40 extensions in many different countries around the world. We train teachers, and preachers, and missionaries. Was I able to do that which He had called me to do? Why? Because He said I could. Can you do the thing that God has called you to do? You answer that one.

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Here are some scriptures that will help you.

Romans 10:14 says, *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* This world is in sad need of preachers that preach the truth, those who will stand up for what God wants to say to His people. Many of the preachers today compromise and are not speaking God's Word with His anointing. How can they hear without a preacher?

Many times when preachers are newly called, the enemy will try to make them think that they don't have anything to say. These verses prove different. In Exodus 4:12 God spoke to Moses and answered him when Moses told him that he wouldn't know what to say, *Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.* God said the same thing to Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:9, *Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.* God will give you what to say. In Matthew 10:18-20 Jesus told His disciples, *And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.*

So let me ask you one more time. If God is calling you to preach—will you be able to preach??? Matthew 28:19-20 says, *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* Let's summarize this part of this chapter. GO GO GO GO

We have talked throughout this book about how the enemy will try to stop you in whatever way he can. We have also mentioned how the Word of God stops the enemy. Coming up in this next chapter, we will talk about how we can overcome the enemy using God's Word.

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Chapter 9

Overcoming the Enemy Using God's Word

I want to close this book by talking about how we can overcome the enemy using God's Word. We are in a battle. Right before my healing was complete in this series of calamities that I have talked about earlier, I had the worst battle with the devil. I think that it was because I had started this book, and he didn't like that. If he could get me discouraged, I wouldn't finish it. Also, I think that this is a common thing he does right before our greatest blessings and miracles. He wants to discourage us so that we quit pressing on. If we quit pressing on, we won't see the miracle that is just around the corner. So many times, if we aren't careful, we will do just that. To be able to press on toward my miracle, I had to at one point decide whether I was going to live this truth about the Word of God all the way, or whether I was just going to profess it, talk about it, and then live it halfway. Just like in anything, halfway won't get the job done.

Another thing that helped me was that I was able to identify the devil, and identify the battle. Then I could stand up against him and fight. It is hard to fight an enemy you can't see or discern. If I had not pressed on past the physical part of my struggle into the spiritual, I would have just been fighting this battle in the physical. I believe with all my heart that if I had done this, I would not be alive now. I believe that the devil meant to kill me, or at least destroy my testimony. I know that He was trying to take from me the truth that God was trying to put into my spirit. One of the most precious things that we have is the truth that has been used and proven in our lives. These are the truths that have been tried in the fire so that it becomes a part of us in a way that brings victory in our lives is the greatest truths we have. The devil knows how precious and powerful this is, and he will do anything he can to steal those truths away from us. When we are going through the fire, and God is writing a part of His Word in our heart and mind, we need to remember how precious that truth is and not let the enemy steal it away. We need to hold to our faith in God's Word, and not let the enemy steal that away.

When we are in the battle, it is good to remember that the devil can't win. It may seem that he can, but he can only go so far. I saw a good illustration of this one day. This happened in the middle of the last part of this battle when the devil was trying to get me to give up. We have chickens. They are in a chicken coop with a little area outside of the coop. This little area is fenced in with chicken wire all the way around down to the ground, and chicken wire covers it. There is no way that something can get in to attack the chickens. One day I heard a chicken that was just

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freaking out. She was in obvious distress. Then I heard a hawk that was crying out just as loud. I saw him diving down on the chicken coop over and over. That poor chicken just got louder. I could tell that she thought that the end of her life was coming soon. But I wasn't worried. You see, I knew that the hawk couldn't get to her. I knew that he couldn't, but she didn't see that. The hawk couldn't see that either. He just kept trying. The only way her life was in danger would have been if she had died of a heart attack, and I was afraid she was going to, she was so distressed.

We are often just like that chicken. We forget that we have the protection of God's Spirit. We have the power of God's Word. We have the protection of the angels around us. We have the name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and the authority that we have as God's children over the enemy. The enemy can only get so close. If we have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, we have the ability to pray in the Spirit so that the Holy Ghost himself binds the enemy. The devil can only go so far, but then there is a hedge around us that protects us. The first time that I saw this and it became real to me was not long after I rededicated my life to the Lord. I was working in a Teen Challenge center. There was a big girl there who had been involved in witchcraft and satan worship. I mean she was wide and very tall. She was the first demon-possessed person that I had seen. She would even speak in a man's voice when that demon took control of her. She had tried several times to kill me, because that devil didn't like me at all.

I remember one time when she was trying to run away. In a moment that was definitely not one of my smartest moments, I stood at the head of the stairs to stop her. She slammed out to push me down the stairs. When her hands were about a foot away from me, they stopped suddenly just like they had hit a wall. She tried again and again, over and over, to push me down the stairs, but each time that same thing happened. She started saying over and over in a man's voice, "Why can't I touch you?" I knew why she couldn't. That was the first time that I saw the hedge that is around God's children. At first I was afraid, but when I figured out what was going on, I have enough of a child in me that I started laughing at her and making faces and saying, "Nah, nah, nah nah, boo boo, you can't get me." That wasn't the only time that we had such a battle. She tried several times after that to hurt me, but was never able to.

This was one time that I physically saw the boundaries of the hedge we have around us as children of God. There have been many times since then that I saw the hedge of protection God has around us against the enemy spiritually. One of the strongest glimpses I have had was a few

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years ago. I had a battle with sleep apnea, and acute bronchitis. I would wake up not breathing. Eventually I would be able to get just a little wheeze of air in. Finally I could breathe little gasps of air. It would take sometimes hours before I could breath halfway normally. I remember one time it was about an hour before I could breath enough to go to the doctor. When they saw me at the urgent care, they wouldn't admit me because they said that they weren't equipped to take care of such an emergency situation, and sent me to the emergency room. I went through this two times every week for 8 weeks.

When this first started, I got afraid. They had told me not to be alone by myself, because if this happened, I could pass out from lack of oxygen and die. My husband was a blessing. He stayed right with me when I was at home. When the attack would start, I would let fear get the better of me, and this would make it so much worse that I almost didn't even get a wheeze of air in. Fear makes things so much worse when you are battling the devil. I knew that if I didn't get the victory over that fear, it would literally kill me. Then I began to realize something. When I felt like the world was leaving me, and I was falling into darkness, all of the sudden I would start being able to get a breath. During these times, I would feel the devil so strong that I knew this was mostly him causing this whole thing. I would get to the place where I felt everything leaving me, then I would feel him stop. It was like he had run into a wall around me, just like that time all the years before when the girl tried to push me. Just like that girl did, I would feel him back up, and I would get that life-giving breath. I realized after watching that happen time and time again that I had a hedge around me, and he could only go so far. Yes, he could bring this sickness against me. But he could not take my life. There was a point that he couldn't cross. I had a hedge of protection around me. That hedge was God's Word. I would remember that girl standing at the head of the steps trying to push me down them. Just like I did then, I would say to myself, "nah nah nah nah boo boo, devil, you can't get me". We need to remember in the times of battle that we have a hedge.

Jesus used God's Word to fight the enemy. The Bible talks about a time after Jesus' baptism when he went face to face with the devil in a physical battle. I am sure the enemy fought him spiritually in a more powerful way than he has fought another human. This battle was face to face. The devil tempted him. I am sure that these temptations were well thought out, and designed to destroy Jesus and stop Him. How did Jesus overcome these temptations? Read them to see. This account is in Matthew 4 starting with verse 4-11. *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty*

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nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

What was the outcome of Jesus' using the Word of God to fight against the devil? In verse 11, we read that the devil left him. Now, we know that the devil didn't leave him alone for good. But when Jesus won that battle, he left him alone for that time. That is how the devil does us. He will keep on like a pesky kid, but as we learn to take authority over him, as we learn how to fight him using God's Word, and as we learn about the hedge, we can even learn to say, "nah nah nah nah boo boo, you can't get me devil".

I am putting here a section from my book *Your Authority As a Child of God*. You can find all of my books on amazon.com or online at my website www.freechristianonlinebooks.com. One of the best illustrations that I can give to explain what it means to take authority comes from my years of being a teacher/principal in both the public and private schools. One of the lessons that I had to learn early in my teaching years was how to take authority. I learned it in a small public school that actually had grades K-12 in one building. All teachers were required to take turns doing hall duty after school, monitoring the halls while the buses were loading. I was new at teaching, and I was totally new at having to deal with teenagers. I was new to them, and I was an elementary school teacher, which made things harder. It was beneath them to listen to me. I was nervous at having to tell them what to do, and I was a soft-spoken, mild mannered person. Often that doesn't mix with teaching older students. I had not learned to take authority.

I barely had learned how to take authority in my classroom, but my hall duty time was a nightmare. Nobody listened. I was too unsure to take the

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authority that was mine as a teacher. Some of the teachers who had been there for years had no problem with their authority. They knew their place. They knew their rank and they knew how to pull it. Most importantly the kids knew, too. When they walked into the hall, the place would grow quiet. If there was something going on that wasn't supposed to, it stopped when they showed up. These older teachers walked in their authority. They were sure in that authority. Later on as I grew in understanding my place and how to take the authority that was mine, when I walked in I had the same affect. It took some time. But when I started taking my authority, the teenagers saw this, and they listened when I told them what to do. It wasn't long before my presence had the same affect on these kids that the older teachers had.

Now you may ask what does this have to do with taking authority over the devil. The devil is just like an unruly teenager. You can talk to him all you want to, you can even quote scripture all you want to, it will have little affect until you take authority over him. This comes from knowing your place as a child of God and walking in it. As you grow in your relationship with God, and you grow in understanding of who you are according to God's Word, you will grow in the authority that you have over satan. That is why it is important to find out and walk in the power and the promises of God's Word. Just as I grew in my authority with the teenagers on hall duty, you have to grow in your authority over the devil. You might say you are on permanent hall duty. It is your job to monitor the devil's behavior and see to it that he does not get into things that he isn't supposed to. If you don't do this, then the enemy will constantly bring harassment against you to stop you, and eventually turn you away from God.

Now when I started teaching one of the main problems that I had as a new comer to the school was that I didn't actually know what all the kids were supposed to be doing, and what they were not allowed to do. I didn't know their restrictions. It didn't help that they knew their restrictions, and they knew that I didn't. They were some of the best little con artists. They could talk me right into my giving them permission to do what they knew they weren't supposed to do. They could get by with doing things in front of me to break the rules, because they knew I didn't know the rules. As children of God, we face this same thing with the devil. We often don't know his limits. God has put strict limits on what he can and cannot get by with. For example, if you read the story of Job, you will find out in chapter 1 that for the devil to try Job, he had to get permission from God. Read the whole first chapter. Then reread Job 1:10-12. In this section of scripture the devil tells God that because of His protection, he can't touch Job. The devil knows the limitations that God has put on his work. The problem is that

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often we do not. The Bible is filled with teaching about our position as children of God and our spiritual authority in that position. That is why it is so important to know the Word of God. We find our authority over the devil in the Word of God. These things are established by the Word of God.

Besides knowing what the rules are, to be able to take authority, you have to learn who you are and what rights and privileges you have as a child of God. This doesn't mean that these rights and privileges are based on who you are in the flesh. Many times we get this confused. We think that because we aren't perfect, or super-spiritual, or giant Christians, we don't have any rights as children of God. Now if we are not committed and submitted to God we lose many of our rights. For example, the Bible tells us that if we are double-minded, we won't receive anything from God (James 1:8). It tells us that if we are not obedient to God then we lose our authority over the devil. It tells us that if we submit to God, then we can resist the devil and he has to flee (James 4:7). Therefore we know that if we are not submitted then we cannot resist him, and have him flee. There are certain conditions of heart and life that we have to have to be able to take the authority that God has given us, and to take our position as children of God. But many people are walking so far in condemnation of the flesh, that they can't see that their rights as children of God are not dependant in their strengths or weaknesses. As a teacher on hall duty, I was a lousy teacher, because I had not learned to take authority. However, my rights and the position I held as a teacher with all the authority that came along with it did not change just because I was a lousy teacher. I was still a teacher, and I had authority, even though I had not learned how to take it. That is the same way with you as a child of God. You just have to learn your position and walk in it. Then when you square your shoulders back and tell the devil to get off your premises, he has to listen.

We are in a spiritual battle and we had better learn how to take spiritual authority to be able to win this battle. The weapons that we have are not carnal, and we had better learn what they are and how to use them. If we are in a ministry, that battle is compounded by the fact that not only will the devil come against us personally, but he will also come against the ministry that the Lord has given us. He means to keep us from doing that which God intends for us to do. If you think that you are not in a spiritual warfare and you think that you don't really need all this, then you really need to beware. There is an old saying, "If the devil isn't fighting you, then he may already have you." The devil won't fight you if you are living a compromised life. He will blind you into thinking that there really is no warfare in your life. Look out. All of us are in this spiritual warfare, if we are children of God. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, *For we wrestle not against flesh*

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and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. I pray reading this you learn to identify the battle, and you learn how victorious you are. Ephesians 1:18-23, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under His feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all. Amen Amen Amen Amen.

The devil keeps us ignorant of our spiritual authority and fights us from being able to walk in it. Because of all this, he steals our joy, our victory, our peace, and that of those whom we love. Some of the main places the devil fights us is in our mind, and in our emotions. He can bring thoughts of doubt against us. He can bring paranoid thinking against us when we think that others are against us. He can mess with our emotions bringing feelings against us. That is why we call them spirits of rebellion, fear, worry, doubt, rebellion, depression, panic, and much more. We have to walk in the Spirit listening to God and we can discern when these things come against us. When I have things like this come up, I take these thoughts and feelings and see if my having these is God's Word. If it isn't, then I take them to God's Word, and find the authority there to put them in their place. When we know who we are, we know our authority, we know our place in God and we know that the devil's place is under our feet, then we have nothing to fear. When we walk in a walking, talking, and obedient relationship with God, God will reveal what the devil is up to, give us spiritual authority to bind him, and then how can the devil win? When we take spiritual authority over our own lives, then we can also take authority over the lives of those around us, and the atmosphere around us.

Well, how can you apply all this to your life? First, you have to recognize the places where the devil is trying to control your life. That is called discernment. It may be that he is trying to bring fear, bitterness, rebellion, depression, physical infirmities, doubt and unbelief, or many other things in oppression against you. This will influence your everyday decisions, and your victory in God. How can you identify these? Ask God to reveal them to you. Then listen when He tells you. I have watched God show people where the devil was coming against them. They didn't obey and do what

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He told them to do. They weren't willing to walk in the Spirit, but they gave in to their spoiled flesh. They weren't willing to take authority, and the devil controlled their lives, and often controlled the lives of those around them, whether they meant for this to happen or not.

Let's go back to the story from my hall monitor days. I was teaching at the public school. I was a teacher. That gave me certain rights. Because of those rights, I expected certain treatment from the students. These rights gave me authority to demand this certain treatment. I could also expect the students to treat one another in a certain way. I had authority to see that this happened as well. This, however, was my first teaching position. When I started, I didn't yet know what it was that I should expect from the students. That left me at a disadvantage. This made my authority shaky. I had to learn first who I was in my position, and I had to learn the position of the students. I talked to older teachers and to the principal. I gradually learned my authority. Just realizing this increased my ability to take authority. When I talked to the teens, they knew that I meant business, then knew that I knew that I had a right to take authority, and they gave in to that authority.

We as Christians often face the same problem in spiritual warfare. We look at ourselves in the natural. We see our weaknesses and failures. We fail to see ourselves in the way that God's Word tells us that we are. We fail to see our position in God and we fail to walk in the authority that is given to us because of that position. We also fail to recognize the devil's position. We fail to realize that his position is planted squarely underneath our heel. (Genesis 3:15, *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*) Often this is because of our ignorance of God's Word. This may come because we have not been taught these things. God's Word is filled with scriptures that tell us both our position in God and the devil's position as well. Here are some things that God tells us about who we are in Him.

1. I am a living Son of a living Savior. (I John 3:1, *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God....*)

2. I am His inheritance destined to be one with Him as He is one with the Father. (John 17:21, *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.*)

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3. My inheritance is to be able to do all the things He did on earth and more. We can not only receive our healing, but we can seek God that we be given the gift of healing which comes through His Spirit that dwells in us. (I Corinthians 12:4-11, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all. But the manifestations of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 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: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.*)
4. I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder brother. (Matthew 16:19, *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*)
5. I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. (I Corinthians 15:57, *But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*)
6. I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. (III John 2, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prosper.*)
7. We have victory over death. (I Corinthians 15:54, *...Death is swallowed up in victory.*)
8. I will **eternally** inherit the blessings of God. (John 5:24, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*)

We have to learn to see ourselves according to God's Word. If we are committed, submitted, and obedient children of God, then these things are true. Read these things over again in a personal way putting your name in the verses. **I** (your name) am a Son of God. Read them all this way and believe them, because they are the Word of God and the Word of God cannot lie. Read them everyday. Read them when the devil brings doubt,

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confusion, and self doubt. Read them to him. Do like Jesus did, and use the Word of God against the devil. God's Word has a way of doing away with the devil's lies.

We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, our failures, our past, our sicknesses, our problems, and our flesh. It would be much better if we spend our time with our mind submitted in the Word of God remembering the verses that declare our victory and our rights as the children of God. We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, or we can remember to submit these to Him so that He becomes our strength. (II Corinthians 12:9-10 *And He (Jesus) said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.... for when I am weak, then am I strong.*) If we concentrate on our flesh and our weaknesses, we deny the power of the Word of God to work in us. We deny the Holy Ghost Who is inside us. We deny Jesus Christ, Who is our only hope of glory. (Galatians 2:20, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*) We need to stop seeing our flesh, and start seeing Jesus in us. We need to stop concentrating on our weaknesses and begin to see the promises of God's Word. We need to know who we are in Him and stand up and claim our God given authority.

These things that we talked about in the previous paragraph are not things that we can see in the natural. To accept the work of God's Word, and the things that it promises, we have to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. These are not things that are based on who and what we are in the natural, but who we are in the Spirit of God. They have little to do with who we are in the natural. We are required to be committed and submitted. We may be very imperfect. We may be just rising up from being the biggest failure in the world, no matter. If we are God's children, then we have a position in His love. We have a position in His kingdom. This position comes with authority. Read this section of scripture found in Ephesians 1:17-23. Verses 22-23 summarize the section. *And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.* Condemnation and discouragement are two tools the devil often uses to come against us to cause us to lose authority. When we walk in the Spirit and we realize that our position and authority is based on who God is, not on who we are, then we move to a place where the devil can't control us with these.

Let's go back to my school situation. There were many days in my early teaching experience when I went home feeling like a complete failure, and

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to put it plainly, I had failed. But I didn't stop there. I kept trying. I learned and I overcame. I learned that I had authority and learned to take it. No matter whether or not I had failed miserably, I learned that my authority didn't change. You have a position in God. Even when you are weak, discouraged, buffeted by the devil, and down and out, you still have a position in God and the authority that comes from that position. This authority comes from God's Word and it isn't based on how you feel about that situation, just as my authority didn't change as a teacher, whether I felt victorious as one, or not. Ask God to give you strength to rise against those things that are coming against you. Ask Him to help you to take the authority that is yours. Ask God to make your forehead to be like a flint rock and your backbone like a crowbar. (Ezekiel 3:8-9, *Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead....*) Then rise up and take your authority as a child of God.

When I learned my authority and took it, my talk and my walk changed. When I walked down the hall, the students knew that there was something different about me. When I spoke to them, telling them to stop doing something, or to do something, they knew that I meant business, and they listened. The devil is the same way. He won't quit right away. He will try to make you think that this authority you have gained isn't yours. He will keep on making you even think that the Word of God isn't working for you. Just keep on. Encourage yourself in the Lord, and pray in the Holy Ghost. Keep reading God's Word, and it will strengthen your faith. Keep taking authority. The devil is actually doing you a favor when he harasses you. He will strengthen your faith in your authority, and in the power of God's Word. He will teach you how to stand by making you stand. Each time he does this, he will learn more about how you are taking authority, and he will give up. Until the next battle, but that will strengthen you even more. There will be a line that he can't cross, because you know where that line is.

God's Word tells you who you are and what authority you have in that position. That is not conditional to how you may feel about yourself. God's Word gives you the victory if you will take it. God's Word gives you authority, if you'll take authority and walk in it. This book is filled with great verses concerning your authority over satan. Write them down. Memorize them. They are great ones to quote to the devil when he comes against you. God's Word gives you authority. The devil knows God's Word better than you do. Use it against him.

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It is also through God's Word that we find satan's limitations. We have to learn how much he is allowed to get away with. If we don't, we will fear him and that in itself will give him power to destroy us. When I was afraid of the older students at the school, I couldn't take the authority over them that was mine. Job illustrates some of the boundaries satan has. Read this part of his story in the book of Job. In this story we know that the devil went before God. God told him, have you considered the faithfulness of my servant Job. The devil said, I have, but I can't do anything to shake him. You have put a hedge up and I can't reach him. God took down the hedge and allowed satan to try Job for a season. This part of the story is found in Job 1:6-12. When the season was over and Job had remained faithful, God restored and blessed and multiplied everything that he had lost. God limits what satan can do to us. In Job 1:10, satan himself said to God, *hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?...* The devil can only do so much to hinder us. God gives us power to overcome him. I John 2:14, *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning, I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you and ye have overcome the wicked one.* Like Caleb said to the children of Israel in Numbers 13:30, *...Let us go up at once, and possess it (what God had given them) for we are well able to overcome it.*

We have a hedge built around us. There is something here to consider, however. If we are not submitted and committed and walking in the Spirit, we may cross over that hedge and put ourselves in harm's way and not even know we have done so. For example, there have been so many times in my life when regretfully, God nudged me to go here or not to go there, or to do this, or not to do that, and I failed to heed God's voice. When I disobeyed, I walked over that hedge that God had built around me. I walked over it and right into harm's way. If we are not in the habit of walking in the Spirit and obeying God, then we automatically walk right into the devil's territory. That is what comes when we walk in the flesh.

Romans chapter 8 is a great chapter to read about walking in the flesh and the dangers that it brings. We can see clearly through this chapter that we cannot bind the devil if we are walking in the flesh. Our flesh will actually take the devil's side. Human nature would like to think that because God loves us, we can do whatever we want. We are protected by His love, that is true. His Word, however, tells us that disobedience will earn certain things. Study out those people in the Bible who walked in disobedience and contrast them to those who walked in obedience. Through this you can see that we must walk in obedience to have a victorious and peaceful life.

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Those who obeyed walked in victory. Those who refused to do so suffered, and their life was filled with turmoil.

For an example let's say that I as a teacher told my kindergarten class to stay out of the four-lane highway because if they didn't, they would suffer bad consequences. Let's say they refused to and went ahead and played there. What would probably be the result? Would they suffer because of their disobedience? Would it be my fault that they suffered? I had warned them. God warns us. When we disobey, it isn't His fault that we suffer. Disobedience even nullifies, or does away with the promises that God gives us in His Word. It also takes away the authority that we have. For example let's go back to my hall monitor days. If I had been a disobedient teacher, one that was breaking all the rules myself, would the students have listened when I tried to take authority over them? The devil recognizes whether or not we are obedient or disobedient. To walk in authority, we have to have a sound relationship with God, so that we are absolutely sure of our authority, and we have to have an obedient relationship with God so that the devil is absolutely sure of our authority. We have to know our position and our authority according to God's Word. We have to know the limitation that God has put on our enemy. We have to be sure that we don't fear our enemy. And when all that is done, when we say devil you have to flee, then he has to flee.

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Chapter 10.
Promises From God's Word

I want to close this book by adding to it another book that I have put together. It is promises from God's Word to help you overcome different things that you may face. The whole little book is made up of scriptures to help you through different things you face. It may be that you need God's word to help you overcome financial problems, anger, fear, marital problems, sickness, worry, or whatever you may face. You can find help to overcome through God's Word. I have put a table of contents for that part that lists all the things with the verses to help you overcome. There is power in God's Word.

Note: If you want to order a copy of my book Promises From God's Word, or download it free, you can find it at freechristianonlinebooks.com. Or order a hard copy at amazon.com.

Promises From God's Word starts on the next page.

The Promises of God's Word

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How to Unlock God's Promises

When you read God's promises in His Word, it is important to remember that most of God's promises are unlocked by obedience. I was talking with someone who told me that she had prayed, and prayed for God to help her, but He had not answered her. She was not saved. She was not walking in obedience to God, letting His spirit lead her. Her life style was a mess, and most of the problems she was having was because of that. She was saying that she did not believe God was real because He did not help her. My point is this. Many times we do not receive the promises of God because we are not obedient to God. If we have not been saved, and we are not His child, or if we are His child, but we are not obedient, we tie God's hands from being able to work in our behalf.

Many of His promises state things that we must do to unlock them to work in our lives. Here are two such promises. Psalm 119:165 promises that great peace will come to those which love God's laws. On the other hand, if we do not love God's laws, and if we don't obey them, then we will not have peace. Another promise with a condition of obedience is Isaiah 26:3 which promises us that God will keep us in His peace when our mind is stayed on Him. In other words, if we fail to keep our mind stayed on Him, and we concentrate instead on all the negative things around us, and on our worries, then we don't have peace.

I am not saying that you have to be perfect for God's promises to work in your life. I am saying that we need to be obedient, yield to Him, love Him with all our heart, and walk with Him. When we do, we will be in the right place at the right time to receive from Him.

When we are in need of abundance, for our physical or for our spiritual needs. God promises abundance, more than enough for both:

In John 10:10 Jesus promises that He comes to give us an abundant life full of good things.

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

In 2 Corinthians 9:8, we are promised that God will give us grace to be able to be sufficient in all things needed to do good works for Him.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work

Ephesians 3:20 promises us that God is able to do way more than what we ask or even think according to His power that works in us.

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

Philippians 4:19 promises that He will supply all our needs according to His riches not just on earth, but His riches in glory. These are given to us through Jesus.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

When you need answers:

Psalms 91:15 promises that when we call on God, He will answer:

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Isaiah 58:9 promises us that if we will take the yokes off us (take off the things that bind us keeping us away from God), then he will answer when we cry:

Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity.

Isaiah 65:24 promises that before we call He will answer:

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

Luke: 11:9-10 promises that when we seek the Lord and His Spirit we will find them:

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. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

John 15:7 promises us that when our life is in God, if He is the center of our life and His Word abides in us, He will answer us and what we ask will be done.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

When we need spiritual armor to guard us against the enemy, the devil:

Romans 13:12 promises that when the devil is making things dark, we can have armor of light that protects us:

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

Ephesians 6:11-17 promises us that we have the whole armor of God:
Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 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, where with 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 you need comfort:

Isaiah 66:13 promises that God will comfort you:
As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you...

Luke 7:13 promises that Jesus has compassion (tender care) for those who are in need of comfort:
And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

John 14:1 promises God will not leave us without comfort:
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me

2 Corinthians 1:3 promises that God is a God of comfort who will comfort us so we can comfort others:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

When you are feeling confused:

1 Corinthians 14:33 tells us that God is not the author of confusion. We know by this that satan is, and we can bind the enemy when we feel His confusion:

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us that if we trust in the Lord with all our heart, and let Him direct our paths, we won't be confused:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Isaiah 30:21 tells us to obey God and we won't be confused:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Philippians 4:6-9 tells us a way to avoid the confusion that comes from being so stressed out that you are in a state of confusion:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

When you are feeling condemned:

Romans 8:1 promises us that if we walk after the Spirit and we are in Jesus, then we will not have condemnation:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

II Corinthians 5:17 promises that old things are passed away:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

John 3:17-18 promises us that god sent His son to forgive, not to condemn us:

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Isaiah 55:7 promises that if we forsake our wickedness, and our unrighteousness, God will abundantly pardon us:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

When you are convicted, when God is letting you know that you have done wrong:

Psalm 40:12-13 says how David felt when he was convicted, and what he asked of God:

For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.

Psalms 51:1-3 and 7-14 tells what we should do when we are convicted:

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

When we need confidence:

Philippians 4:13 promises we can do everything:

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Hebrews 10:35 tells us not to throw away our confidence:

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

1 John 5:14 promises we can have confidence in our prayers:

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.

2 Corinthians 7:16 promises we can have confidence through Christ:
I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

When we need counseling:

Psalm 16:7 promises that God will counsel us:
I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.

Psalm 73:24 promises that God's counsel will lead us to heaven:
Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Isaiah 28:29 promises that God is an excellent counselor:
This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.

When we need courage:

Deuteronomy 31:6 promises us that God will go with us and give us courage:
Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Ezra 10:4 tells us to be of good courage and do whatever it is that God tells us to do:
Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it.

Psalm 27:14 promises courage:
Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psalm 31:24 promises courage, hope, and strength:
Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

When you feel like darkness is all around you:

Matthew 6:23 tells us that darkness can come around us because we are letting so many things into our life that we crowd out God:

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

John 3:19 tells us that sometimes darkness is around us because we choose to have sin, and the world's darkness instead of God's light:

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Psalms 82:5 tells us that sometimes darkness is around us because we are ignorant of God's light and how to walk in it:

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Matthew 5:14 promises that not only can we

have light but we can also be a light to the world:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

John 12:35 tells us that we can have light when we walk with Jesus:

Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

Ephesians 5:14 promises that Christ will give you light:

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

When we face death:

Psalms 23:4 promises us we don't have to be afraid:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 116:15 promises us that the details of our death are precious to the Lord:

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Proverbs 14:32 promises us hope in our death:

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Romans 14:8 promises us that we need to remember that we are the Lords:

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Philippians 1:20-21 says that death is gain:

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Hebrews 11:13-16 promises us that we will receive God's promises when we die:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

When you need deliverance, set free from things that would destroy you:

Psalms 91:3 promises deliverance from things that try to destroy you:

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

2 Timothy 4:18 promises deliverance when people try to do evil things against you:

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 46:4 promises He will deliver:

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Hebrews 2:15 *And deliver them who through*

fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2 Corinthians 1:10

Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.

When you are depressed:

Psalm 30:5 promises that we don't have continue in mourning but God promises joy:

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Isaiah 61:3 promises that God will give us joy for mourning:

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 promises comfort so that we comfort others:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Philippians 4:7-8 promises that we can have joy if we concentrate on certain things:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Psalms 147:3 promises healing for our hearts:

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Luke 18:1 promises that prayer helps us not to lose heart:
And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Nehemiah 8:10 promises the joy of the Lord will be our strength:
Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Isaiah 51:11 promises that sorrow will flee away:
Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

When you feel discouraged:

Isaiah 41:13 promises that God will encourage us:
For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Matthew 14:27 tells us to be of good cheer:
But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Acts 27:22
And now I exhort you to be of good cheer....

When you are dissatisfied:

Philippians 4:12-13 promises us that we can be satisfied no matter what state we are in:

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Jeremiah 31:14 promises we can be satisfied:
And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD.

Psalms 107:9 promises us that God will fill our hungry souls
For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

When we are doubting God:

2 Peter 3:9 promises that God is not slack concerning His promises for us:
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Romans 10:17 promises that hearing God's Word will grow our faith:
So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Peter 4:12-13 promises that even our fiery trials will turn out for joy:
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Jude 20 tells us to pray in the Holy Ghost (pray in tongues when we have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost), to strengthen our faith:
But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

When we are feeling empty:

John 15:11 promises we can be full of joy:
These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Ephesians 4:18 promises we can be full of the Spirit:
... but be filled with the Spirit;
Colossian 1:9 promises we can be full of wisdom, and understanding:
For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

John 1:16 promises we can receive His fullness:

And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Ephesians 1:22-23 promises we as His body can be full of all the fullness in Him:

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 4:13 promises we can have the fullness of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

When we need encouragement:

Isaiah 41:13 promises God's help:

For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Matthew 14:27 promises with Jesus we can be encouraged:

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Isaiah 43:1-3 promises encourage us:

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...

When you need endurance:

Job 17:9 promises endurance to the righteous:

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

John 15:9 promises we can continue in His love:

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Galatians 6:9 promises that if we continue on, we will reap:
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Hebrews 12:1-2 promises Jesus will be our author and finisher of our faith:
Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Peter 1:13 promises hope for the end:
Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Revelation 3:11 promises a crown for those which hold fast:
Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

When we have enemies:

Psalms 18:48 promises us God will lift us up above our enemies:
He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

Isaiah 62:8 promises our enemies will not take our blessings:
The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured: But they that have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness.

Luke 1:71 promises that we will be saved from our enemies:
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.

When you are fearful, or afraid:

2 Timothy 1:7 promises that we can have power, love, and a sound mind instead of fear:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Romans 8:15 promises us that we can have the love of our heavenly Father that will keep us away from fear:

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

1 John 4:18 promises us that God's love will keep away fear:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Psalm 91:10-11 promises us His angels will keep us:

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Proverbs 3:25-26 promises us the Lord can be our confidence:

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Psalm 56:11 promises that when we put our trust in God we don't have to be afraid of men:

In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalm 23:4-5 promises us that when we face death or our enemies, we don't have to be afraid:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

When we are in financial trouble:

3 John 2 promises God wishes us to prosper:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Psalm 37:25 promises God won't forsake us:

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalm 34:10 promises that if we seek the Lord we won't want for any good thing: The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Deuteronomy 28:2 promises that if we listen and obey God's voice, we will be blessed:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Luke 6:38 promises that when we give, we will receive abundantly more than what we give:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Malachi 3:10 promises that if we pay tithes, God will bless what we give:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Joshua 1:8 promises that the way to be successful and prosperous is to keep God's Word:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

When we need forgiveness:

Psalms 103:3 promises forgiveness:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Acts 5:31 promises repentance and forgiveness:

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7 promises forgiveness according to riches of God's grace:
In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to

forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we need to forgive:

Matthew 6:14

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mark 11:25

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When you need friends, what to look for when you choose them and why they are important to have:

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:24

A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Proverbs 27:10

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

When we are grieving, when someone has died:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 promises our loved ones who die in Christ will rise again:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Matthew 5:4 promises comfort when we mourn:

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Isaiah 61:1-3 promises joy for mourning:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 promises that death has lost its sting:

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

When we need to grow spiritually:

2 Peter 3:18 promises we can grow in knowledge:

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.

1 Peter 2:2 promises we can grow in God's Word:

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 Timothy 4:15 promises that if we meditate on God's Word, we will progress:

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Ephesians 3:14-19 promises ways that we can grow:

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

Colossians 1:9-11 promises more ways that we can grow:

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

When we need guidance:

Psalm 5:8 promises He will make His way straight before us:

Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psalm 25:9 promises He will guide us in His way:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psalm 73:24 promises He will guide us to glory:
Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Isaiah 30:21 promises He will speak and guide us:
And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 42:16 promises He will guide us and not forsake us:
And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

Luke 1:79 promises He will guide us into the ways of peace:
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

John 16:13 promises He will guide us into truth:
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

When we need healing:

Isaiah 53:5 promises healing:
But He (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

Proverbs 4:22 promises God's Word brings healing:
For They (God's Words) are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Jeremiah 30:17 promises that He will restore our health:
For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord....

Jeremiah 17:14 promises God is a healer:
Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Exodus 15:26 promises God is a healer:

...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandment, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

Psalms 41:4 promises He will heal our soul:

I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

When we feel hopeless:

Romans 15:4 promises us the Word of God can bring us hope:

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Proverbs 14:32 promises that we can even have hope in our death:

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Psalms 31:24 promises when we hope in the Lord He will strengthen us:

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

Psalms 33:18 promises we can have hope in His mercy:

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.

When we need instruction (teaching):

John 16:13 promises He will guide us into truth:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Psalms 71:17 promises God will teach young people who will also pass it on:

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God,

forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

2 Chronicles 36:16 tells dangers mocking instruction:

But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

Proverbs 1:7 tells us that fools despise instruction, they don't listen and do what is taught:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

When we need joy:

John 15:11 promises us that Jesus wants our joy to be full:

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Nehemiah 8:10 promises the joy of the Lord will be our strength:

... for this day is holy unto our LORD: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Psalms 16:11 promises that in God's presence there is joy:

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 30:5 promises weeping will be for a night, but joy will come:

... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Psalms 126:5-6 promises that when we sow in tears, we will reap in joy:

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Isaiah 12:3 promises that salvation will bring us joy:

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 35:10 promises us everlasting joy:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

When you feel deserted, when loved ones desert you:

Psalm 27:10 promises He will be with you when others forsake you:
When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

*Isaiah 62:4 promises you won't stay forsaken if you stay in Him:
Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken....*

Isaiah 41:17 promises He won't forsake us even though others do:
When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isaiah 49:15-16 promises God will not forsake you because the nail prints in His hands are for you:

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

Samuel 12:22 promises not to forsake you:

For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

When we have marriage problems:

Ephesians 4:31-32 says to put away anger, be kind and forgiving:

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 Peter 3:1-7 gives good advise to follow:

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

When we need a miracle:

Ephesians 3:20 promises us that God is able to do way more than what we ask or even think according to His power that works in us.

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

When we need peace:

Psalm 119:165 promises that great peace will come to those which love God's laws:

Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Isaiah 26:3 promises us that God will keep us in His peace when our mind is stayed on Him:

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Romans 8:6 promises that if we are spiritually minded we will have peace:
For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 14:17 promises that the Holy Ghost will bring us peace:

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 5:22 promises us that part of the nature of the Spirit of God is peace, and when He dwells in our hearts and lives, and we submit to Him, we will have His peace:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith;

John 14:27 promises that the world and becoming all tangled up in what the world is tangled up in cannot give us peace, but Jesus can:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

When you are persecuted for Christ:

Acts 5:41 promises that we can rejoice when we are persecuted:

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Romans 8:16-17 promises us as children of God that when we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him:

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.

Hebrews 11:25 promises it is better to suffer with God than to go back to sin:

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

1 Peter 2:20 tells us that if we go through things because of our faults, shouldn't we take persecution with more patience:

For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

1 Peter 5:10 promises God will use our suffering to make us better in Him:

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

When we need protection:

2 Chronicles 16:9 promises that the Lord is watching protecting us:

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him....

Psalms 34:7 promises that the angels will protect those that fear (respect) the Lord, and it promises that when we trust Him we will be blessed:

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Psalms 91:4-6 promises He will shield us under His wings:

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Zechariah 2:5 promises God will be around you:

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

When we need a purpose:

Acts 26:16 promises we have a purpose to be a witness:

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Psalms 143:10 promises doing God's will leads us to be upright:

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Matthew 12:50 promises that when we do the will of God, we are Jesus' brothers and sisters in Him:

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Ephesians 6:6-7 says to do the will of the Lord with all our heart:
Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing
the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord,
and not to men.

When we are tempted:

1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God is faithful to make a way so that
you can escape temptation if you will take that way:
There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but
God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are
able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may
be able to bear it.

Hebrews 2:18 promises Jesus knows about temptation, and will help you:
For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour
them that are tempted.

2 Peter 2:9 promises God knows how to deliver

the godly from temptation:

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to
reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Revelation 3:10-12 promises that there is a great reward for those that
overcome:

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from
the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them
that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou
hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar
in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon
him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is
new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will
write upon him my new name.*

When we need to be restored, made new in Christ:

Psalms 51:12 promises God will uphold us:
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Hosea 14:4 promises God will restore the backsliders:
I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Joel 2:25 promises to restore what you have lost
spiritually and physically:
And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...

When we need salvation:

Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to be saved:
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

When we need sanctification, when we need to have God clean us up:

John 17:17 promises God's Word can cleanse us:
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
1 Corinthians 1:30 promises sanctification through Jesus:
But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 promises we can be vessels of honor if we allow God to sanctify us, clean us up continually:
But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

1 Peter 1:2 promises the Spirit of God will sanctify us unto obedience:
Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

When we are seeking God:

Deuteronomy 4:29 promises that when we seek God with our whole heart, we will find Him:

But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Isaiah 55:6 promises that if we seek Him, we will find Him when we are ready to change:

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Luke 11:10 promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Acts 17:27 promises He is not far from us:

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.

When we need strength:

2 Corinthians 12:9 promises us that when we are weak, God's strength will be sufficient:

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Isaiah 40:29-1 promises that we can rise up like eagles:

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 promises God will strengthen us:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Ephesians 3:16 promises God's Spirit will strengthen us in our inner man:
That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

When we have troubles:

Nahum 1:7 promises He will help us in our trouble:
The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 promises our trouble won't destroy us:
We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

John 14:1 promises when we believe in God and Jesus, our hearts don't have to be troubled:
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Psalms 138:7 promises when we walk in trouble He will save us:
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Romans 8:28 promises all things will work out for our good, even the really bad things that happen:
And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Peter 5:7 promises we can cast our cares on Him:
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

When we need to understand God's ways:

Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us His ways are not our ways:
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.

Jeremiah 33:3 promises that He will show us His ways:

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalm 18:30 promises God's ways are perfect, and we can trust Him, even though we may not understand all His ways:

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

When we need wisdom:

Isaiah 11:2 promises that when we need wisdom, He will supply:

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

1 Corinthians 1:24 promises us wisdom of God:

But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Proverbs 8:11 promises God's wisdom is precious:

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Closing

I pray that this book has enabled you to find the power that is in God's Word. I pray that it also has fired you up to carry God's Word to others in whatever way that God has called you to do so, and we have all been called to carry it in some way. We are all called to *tend the seed*. I also pray that this book has caused you to make God's Word a focus in your life, and that through this you have found peace and order in your life. I know that you will also find a greater victory, and this will not only change your life, but the lives of those around you. God's Word will not come forth void. It will make a change. Let it continue to grow in your life. Isaiah 55:11 says, *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.* Psalms 68:33-35 says God's voice is a mighty voice, *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God.*

About the Author

Sandy Haga has been a part of New Life Church and Ministries for over 30 years. She is the Director of both New Life Christian Academy, and New Life Bible College and Seminary.

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