

“THE RIVER OF LIFE”

Keys to Victorious Living

By

Rev. Doug Warren
(1928-2005)

"THE RIVER OF LIFE"

Preface

There are so many books dealing with counseling on the market from a "psychological" or "spiritual" base or combinations of both, was there a need for one more? After much prayer and years of study of the Scriptures, there emerged some powerful Scriptural principles which, when applied in counseling correctly, enable many people to come to a new level of inner peace and quietness, a new level of joy and purpose for living. While the circumstances of life often did not change, the reaction to the circumstances in many cases did change to help people discover a greater measure of "abundant living".

If in sharing some experiences of my journey of life and these Biblical principles of "wholeness" some are helped to a greater level of "freedom" on their journey of faith, then I give all Glory to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I am grateful to God for all those who have encouraged me to write down these principles of Spiritual Liberation. This book is dedicated to the Glory of God, to my dear wife and my three sons.

Acknowledgements are given for typing, correcting and re-typing to Joni Peckham (Eveleigh), Deborah Hathaway (Banyard), Faithe Johnson and so many others for their proof-reading, suggestions and encouragement to have this material in print.

Scriptures used K.J.V.

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**“I AM COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE
IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.” (John 10:10)**

"Life in All it's Fullness"

Chapter 1

EARLY LIFE

Caught in the Storm

"Help, help, I can't swim!"

"Stop fooling around!" was the reply that came back to the cry for help. With that, huge waves came crashing over the young boy's head and under he went. While struggling desperately to the surface, he shouted, *"Help, I can't swim!"* Once more the waves mercilessly broke over him and down he went a second time. After swallowing several mouthfuls of water and when it seemed all hope was lost, he rose to the surface a third time. Frantically clutching for anything, his hand miraculously caught the edge of an auto inner tube on which a young girl was floating. Having finally realized the urgency of the cry, she had quickly fought her way over. Coughing and gasping for air, the young boy clung to the edge of the inner tube as the girl quickly made her way to shore.

When it seemed as if all hope was lost - help arrived in the form of a young girl on an inner tube riding upon the waves.

How did it happen? It was a hot, sultry afternoon and a few families from a local church had gone to a Lake Erie beach for a picnic and swim. The lake was calm. It was certainly a perfect afternoon for swimming. All the young people and children had gone out for a swim.

The young boy walked out to the sandbar from the shore. As he walked, the water became neck high; however, as he reached the sandbar, the water tapered off to about waist deep. Why, he had nothing to fear with four older brothers and several older people close by. And wasn't it a beautiful, calm day?

Dark clouds were forming on the horizon. The winds began to increase in velocity and gradually the waves began to roll in higher and higher. White breakers appeared. What fun it was! The young boy played gleefully plunging through the waves again and again, oblivious to any danger signs of the rapidly approaching storm.

Almost without noticing, he was driven farther and farther away from the group. As a sudden loud clap of thunder rolled across the skies, the young boy became alarmed. One thought raced through his mind, *"I must get back to shore."* He started out across the sandbar

bouncing with the waves. He hadn't realized that he had drifted down the shore line and that deep water lay between him and the shore. As the waves got higher and the water deeper, panic and fear gripped the young boy's heart. With a fierce crash of water, one giant wave knocked him over. Frantically struggling to his feet, his cry, "*Help, help, I can't swim,*" went out to the girl on the inner tube not far away... Safely on shore, the young lad happily thought, "*Boy, was I ever lucky!*" I was that young boy about eight years old.

Home Life

I was the youngest of five boys with two younger sisters. My father worked on the railroad. He worked hard in order to feed and clothe his large, growing family and to provide an adequate home in which to live.

I'm thankful to God for a mother and father who loved us so much as to surround us in earlier years not only with the material things of life, but also with a spiritual foundation upon which our lives could be built.

One of the earliest recollections of God's love came from the Bible Story book Mother used to read each night. Especially captivating to my young, adventuresome mind was the story of the Good Shepherd and the one lost sheep. Even at a very early age, somehow I identified myself with that one lost sheep.

The other home influence which touched my life at a very early age was our family gatherings. Each Sunday evening after church, we would gather around and sing those old gospel favourites in our home. With Dad playing the violin and Mother at the piano, we sang joyfully those great hymns of the faith.

Dad was the kind of man who, in his love for his family, believed in a firm hand of discipline. He insisted that as long as we were under his roof, we would go to church on Sunday whether we liked it or not. Oftentimes we didn't like it, particularly when in the summer all the other fellows were heading off to either baseball games and swimming or to hockey games in the winter months.

Thank God now for that steady hand of love upon our lives during our rebellious teenage years. Oh, that we had more of that today! We didn't hear much of what the minister said. The services didn't make much of an impression during those years, but nevertheless, seeds were being sown that later on would spring forth into life. Ground was being prepared in my heart through the faithful preaching of the Word of God and through the Sunday school teachers who patiently worked with a group of wiggling, squirming and, yes, often mischievous boys.

When I was about twelve years of age, one of these Sunday school teachers challenged us to read our Bibles and pray daily in a "quiet time" both morning and night. He did this simply by asking every week, *"How many of you boys read your Bibles and prayed every day this past week?"* At first the idea was foolish to us, but gradually, first one and then another began to read the Word at least once or twice a week and eventually every day.

This started me on a principle of faith which eventually became more important than eating breakfast. If there was not enough time for breakfast and my "quiet time," the latter came first. Being a night hawk and not too bright in the mornings, I missed many a breakfast as I rushed off to catch a bus for school or jumped into my car to get to work on time (but I delighted in those few moments of "quiet time").

Rebirth

At about seventeen and a half years of age, I accompanied the church young people's group to a Youth For Christ rally in the Olympic Gardens in Detroit, Michigan. The speaker, a young evangelist named Billy Graham, gave a very challenging presentation of the Good News of God's love for all in Jesus Christ. While he was speaking to thousands of people that night, God spoke to my heart and calling me by name said, *"As far as I am concerned, you are as big a sinner and hypocrite as the worst drunkard in the streets of Chicago or Detroit!"*

What a shock! Why, hadn't I tried to live a good, clean, moral life? Wasn't I engaged in church activities about four or five nights a week? Hadn't I been reading the Bible and praying every day for about five years? Those words in my ear struck at the centre of my inner life. Then the words from John, Chapter 3, which I had read many times before became the Living Word, *"Except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God,"* and, *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

An invitation was given at the end of the service. I found myself taking a long walk down from the balcony with several others of our group. I longed so desperately to ask God to forgive me all my sins, to wash me clean in His most precious blood. And, as an act of my will, I invited Jesus to come into my life as Saviour and Lord.

I was expecting a blinding flash of light like Paul saw on the Damascus road, but I saw nothing. I looked in the mirror to see if there was a change. I looked the same! When I got up the next morning, I thought, *"Well, if I have changed, my mother will notice it."* If she did, she didn't say anything.

For a while I didn't notice any change either but gradually I discovered I was beginning to think differently. Something or someone was changing me from the inside out. I had always tried to change myself from the outside in by rigidly following certain laws, rules, and regulations. *"Thou shalt not do this" or "Thou shalt not do that."* I had religiously adhered to all the laws but they hadn't brought much joy or happiness, and certainly very little peace of mind. (Later in my life I realized the meaning of Galatians 3:24-26, *"The Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*)

One day as I was reading the Scriptures, I came across 1 Corinthians 3:16, *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* I remember clearly that day how that Word became a living Word. This is the way I understood it. My being is the temple of God and God's Spirit dwells in me. Therefore, if this is true, then I am going to do all within my power to keep my whole being as clean as I can for His Life to live in me.

While I have made many mistakes and drifted off the narrow road over the years that Scripture nevertheless has held me up time and time again, and saved me from many falls.

God's Call

After graduating from a technical school, I apprenticed as an electrical motor winder and serviceman. I was employed as an electrician for ten years. During this period of time I was active in both my community and local church. At first I helped as a Sunday school teacher and later took on the responsibility of the Sunday school superintendent. Also I held various leadership positions in our young people's groups.

One summer evening at a young people's camp which I was directing, God spoke to my inner being and said, *"You are going back to school this fall."* I was astounded by this revelation! For three years I had experienced a growing awareness that God wanted me to study for the ordained ministry. However, I had pretty well dismissed that idea! I knew I didn't have the education

required to start University and couldn't see myself going back to high school for an additional two or three years.

The camp ended on Labour Day weekend. High school started immediately. So powerful was the conviction that God had spoken. I immediately started writing letters and making inquiries about returning to school. Every door slammed shut and every direction seemed the wrong direction. Three weeks went by. All schools, including universities had started classes, and I was not enrolled anywhere. No doors were opened, and yet I couldn't ignore or discard God's call and conviction upon my life. I prayed and cried out to God continually.

Finally, on about the 20th of September while seated at the kitchen table, two words flashed across my mind - *"try Assumption."* I had not thought of the Roman Catholic College in the City of Windsor as even a remote possibility. I jumped up from the table and said to Mother, *"I'll see you later."*

"Where are you going?" she asked. *"I have your favourite lemon meringue pie for dessert!"*

"I'll eat it later, Mom, and I'll tell you about this later " I had not mentioned my innermost convictions and struggles to my family.

Through a series of miraculous events, I was allowed to start in a make-up year preparing for university at Assumption College. The dedication of those devoted men and women in that college was a tremendous help to me during my first year of much frustration and many doubts. It was difficult and confusing at times trying to get my mind to think academically, especially after spending ten years in the working world. It wasn't easy. Deep down in my heart I knew many dear friends were upholding me in prayer.

One humorous incident which came out of this first year occurred after my Christmas exams. As part of a testing process by the College, I had taken an I.Q. test at the beginning of the year. After my Christmas exams, which I had barely passed, I was called in to see the College Counselor. He said, *"I have the results of your Christmas exams and your I.Q. test mark. And, with what you got, I don't believe you will ever be able to do the university work. We would be very glad to refund your money for the second half of the year."*

I replied, *"Well, I know my exam results were not good but I have been out of school for ten years. By the way, what was my mark for the 10. test?"*

"It was around 69," he responded.

I smiled and said, *"That's not good is it?"*

He said, *"It's worse than that."*

"Well, Sir, I have quit my job and would like to try one year if I might stay in for the rest of this year."

"Well," he replied, "it you want to waste your money and your time, we will not force you out."

Then I explained the call of God upon my life and what I was attempting to do in order to go into the ministry. Very kindly, he then said, *"Well, perhaps with sheer hard work you may be able to get the first year."* He then wished me all the best.

Praise God! With His help and the prayers of many friends, I finished that year with three "A's," three "B's," and a "C". With those marks I transferred to Queen's University in Kingston. The next five years I spent completing the course in Arts and Theology. I took the same I.Q. test as part of my psychology course at Queen's and ended up with a score of 138 on the same test. This time I knew how to do it!

God was very gracious during those five years. At the beginning of my studies, God gave me a Scripture verse which became the foundation of my life. Matthew 6:33, *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."* He also gave me a second verse, James 1:5, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him."* This was a tower of strength particularly during studies and examination time.

A part of God's great provision occurred after I had been in my first year for a few weeks. One evening my minister called me and asked, *"Are you sitting down? Someone, who prefers to remain anonymous, has just given you \$1,000 with no strings attached."* This money was a tremendous blessing during my first year.

After the second year of university, I got married to a wonderful Christian girl. She also got her degree during those years - a P.H.T. Degree - "Putting Hubby Through". She was a school teacher and worked three out of the first five years after we were married.

During the final year in Theology, I served on a student charge as pastor of four churches, driving about 70 miles each day back and forth to university. In addition, our first son was born that year. (Two more have been added since.)

Upon graduation from Theology, I was ordained to the Christian ministry and was sent to Algoma in Northern Ontario for six years. We enjoyed our ministry amongst those dear people, and to this day, we still love to go back to that beautiful area each summer. As I preached the Gospel over the years, God blessed His Word, and we saw many people experience a closer walk with God.

Chapter II

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spiritual Hunger

It was during this period of my life that a deep spiritual hunger and longing came within my being. I couldn't explain what it was but there was a strong desire to know more about God's love and to draw closer to Jesus. I experienced a hunger to read the Word of God, particularly the Acts of the Apostles, passages in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, 13 and 14, and the Gospel of John, Chapters 14, 15, 16 and 17 - all of which are passages relating to the Holy Spirit and His power that gripped the early church.

As I contemplated the church of that day and contrasted it with many of the Christians I knew, I thought, *"I don't see any miracles taking place in any Church that I know, in the same way the early church experienced them."* The early Christians seemed to have a one-to-one relationship with God. His Spirit instructed them, talked to them, forbade Paul to go here, told him to go there. What was this? What did they have or experience that seemed to be so lacking in our twentieth century church?

At the same time, God would stir me out of bed at 7:00 a.m. each morning. I would get up and go across the street to my church where, for six months, my spirit would cry out in the words of the Psalmist, *"Create within me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me." "Search me, O God and know my heart, try me and see if there be any wicked ways in me."*

I discovered as I started praying to God like this and really meaning business, that I had to start ducking. God began showing me things in my life which were hindering His life in me. For six months, as I prayed for His deliverance, God, in His great love, mercy and gentleness, revealed things buried deep within me. He began putting within my inner being some of the tremendous attributes of His great love in Jesus. The fruit that had been growing for so many years was now starting to ripen.

It was not an easy time during that six-month period. The Spirit of the Living God began His work of liberation and brought me into a new dimension of His great love.

It was during this period that I started to read a few articles about the Charismatic movement that was starting to break out in the traditional churches. One day I happened to pick up an article in the Christian Life Magazine and read about an Anglican priest, named Dennis Bennett, from the West Coast of the United States. He had had an experience called "the Baptism of the Holy Ghost" which had quickened his spiritual life and transformed his ministry to such an extent that it had caught the attention of the media; the news was being circulated across the country. As I read the article, something was stirring deep within me and I thought, *"Could this possibly be what I'm searching for?"*

During my university years, I'd been to a prayer meeting with a fellow Theology student. I remember being strangely stirred that evening by the tremendous joy, happiness, and power of that little group. They seemed to experience the love of Jesus and a special compassion for the lost. While I didn't recognize it at the time, they had been talking and sharing the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. I can recall the two of us discussing this matter on the way home. I distinctly remember saying, *"I know when I was born again at seventeen and a half years of age, that I was baptized by the Holy Ghost into the Body of Christ and became a new creature in Him."* What was this Baptism with or of the Holy Spirit that they were talking about? With the pressures of academic studies and the business of university life, the matter was laid to rest for several years.

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Toward the end of the six months of what I now call, "my intensive training," I became aware that the conviction and deep hunger within my being was for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I had studied all the Scriptures relating to the matter carefully and prayerfully during this period. I also became convinced that the early church's encounter and the present-day church's experience were somewhat different.

I heard of one of our Church ministers who had experienced this dimension of faith. Earlier in the year I had arranged for this same minister to come in the spring for a preaching mission in our area. How I praise God for His wonderful timing!

I met with this minister in Toronto and together we finalized plans for the mission. Right then I decided to ask him to share what he knew about this Baptism of the Holy Spirit. He shared the same Scriptures which God had shown me already.

I said to him, *"I know these Scriptures and I've studied them carefully for the past six months."*

Then he said, *"Has anyone ever prayed with you for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands?"*

I said, *"No, but it that's the way you receive it, go ahead and pray for me. I'm ready."* I knew already that this was one way some people had received the Holy Spirit in the New Testament because I knew Acts 19:6.

"Are you really ready?" he asked.

"I don't know what this is, but I know it is Scriptural. Yes, go ahead and pray."

Hands were laid on me and for the first time in my life I heard the strange language of the Spirit as he prayed, I was frightened at first, not because of the strange language since I knew this minister had received this manifestation, but because of a strange sarcastic voice within my thoughts that said, *"Get out of here: you are in a spiritualist meeting."* I knew this pastor was no spiritualist and I knew I was not in a spiritualist meeting. I didn't move.

He then began to pray, *"If there are any demons or evil spirits that would hinder the fullness of the Holy Spirit, I command them in the Name of Jesus to come forth."* As he was speaking, my mind was racing with thoughts like, *"What are you praying for me like that for? After all, I'm a minister! I've been a Christian for over seventeen years. I don't have any demons or evil spirits."*

Then to my surprise, a very quiet, gentle and loving voice spoke from my inner being and said, *"Oh, don't you? What about your outbursts of anger in your home at times?"*

I replied, *"I've got that one, Lord!"*

"What about your resentments against certain people?"

"I've got some of those too, Lord."

"What about your ministerial pride?"

"Oh, I guess I've got that too, Lord."

"What about your jealousy?"

"Yes, Lord, I've got that too."

"What about..." (Several others were mentioned.)

"Yes, Lord I've got those! I don't call these demons or evil spirits, Lord, I just call them hang-ups or problems, but if that's what You call them, I have them."

With that confession going through my mind, I heard the minister saying, *"In the Name of Jesus, I break all their powers and cast them out."*

To my surprise, my body gave a quick snap (as if someone had cut a stretched-out elastic band). Suddenly a tremendous surge of joy, peace, and quietness flooded my whole being.

The minister then prayed for me to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. He said, *"Praise God and thank Him for the blessing. You can pray in tongues if you want to. Just praise Jesus and thank Him out loud."*

I thought, *"I don't want to pray in tongues. I think they sound strange. All I want is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit."*

I began praising God and thanking Jesus out loud. I'd only said about three sentences when my mouth clamped shut. This frightened me for a moment. At that moment I thought of Paul's experience on the road to Damascus when he was confronted by the living Christ. He was struck blind! I immediately opened my eyes and said to myself, *"Well, at least I can see, but I can't speak."* I opened my mouth but no sounds came out. In the meantime, the minister went across the room and sat down.

Suddenly, to my surprise, with my eyes open, I saw a vision of a large mass of people with their hands outstretched, reaching up and crying a most pitiful cry, *"Help us! Help us! Help us!"* The vision faded and went out of focus momentarily. Then it came back clearly, like a TV camera zooming in and out. Once again the voices cried, *"Help us! Help us! Help us!"* For a second time the vision faded and then came back into focus with the same cries, *"Help us! Help us! Help us!"*

At that moment the minister said, *"Relax."*

I don't know whether I looked tense or not but I didn't feel tense. With those thoughts, the vision disappeared. The minister continued to praise God in the Spirit. Then I suddenly found myself speaking and saying, *"I know what you just said in tongues."*

My friend replied, *"Oh, what did I say?"*

"You have received the gift of tongues but God's timing is perfect."

He said, *"Well, if that's what I said, praise the Lord!"*

I looked at my watch. It was four o'clock in the afternoon, the exact time I had arranged with another minister to drive back up to Northern Ontario.

The next evening, at our men's prayer group which met every Saturday, when I began to pray I experienced a tremendous love and compassion for people. The men noticed the change also.

At midnight, I went home and was having my evening "quiet time" when out of my innermost being a language I had never learned started to flow. I had already studied English, a year each of French and Spanish, two of Greek, and three years of Hebrew, but this language was different from any of my acquired languages.

A few moments later that harsh, rasping voice spoke through my thoughts and said, *"Now you've done it in your search for God. You've gone out of your mind. You've gone spiritually crazy!"*

Though I didn't understand what I was saying in this new language, I knew one thing - I had never been so close to God and my blessed Saviour in all my life. It seemed Jesus was right there. I can remember laughing and saying, *"If I have gone out of my mind, I'm going to stay here. I've never been so close to God in all my life."*

I knew I was not out of my mind, and as I continued to pray in the Spirit, I realized that I could stop the flow. I could speak softly or loudly; I could allow the prayer to rise into a beautiful crescendo and then drop to a hush. I could move fluently from English into the language of the Spirit.

After about one hour of praying for the people in my charge, I went to bed. I said to my wife, *"Dear."* She stirred somewhat in her sleep but I realized my good news could wait till morning, and I went off to sleep.

The next morning I said excitedly, *"I've got some good news for you!"*

"I already know," she said.

"You know what?" I asked.

"You spoke in tongues last night."

"How in the world would you know that?"

"In the middle of the night you woke me by your praying in tongues. At first I was alarmed. I knew it wasn't a language you'd studied. But you didn't become violent or anything and so I listened. It was a beautiful language and when it stopped, I went back to sleep."

That was the beginning, over sixteen years ago at the time of this writing, of a dimension of God's marvelous grace that dramatically changed my life. It gave me a much greater love and compassion for people, even for those who opposed

me. Also, I received such a love for the Word of God that I read and studied it as never before. The Bible seemed like a new book, alive with the power of the Living God.

Introduction to the Healing Ministry

About ten days after the release of the Spirit in me, the same minister from Toronto came for a preaching mission in our area. As part of this mission, I arranged for him to hold a healing service. After he had preached from the Word on the healing ministry of Jesus to the early church, we invited people to come forward for the laying on of hands. About sixteen people came forward and we saw God reach down and touch some of those people with the blessing of His healing power.

In this service the three ministers would lay hands on the heads of the people and simply ask God, in the Name of Jesus, to touch these people with His healing power to meet their need. We also invited other believers who felt they would like to share in this ministry to come forward and lay hands on the needy.

As I was helping with the laying on of hands I thought, Isn't this strange! Here I am praying for others for healing when I am suffering so badly from a sinus condition. I had lived with this condition since my youth. An operation on my nose to help drain the sinuses had helped but did not cure the condition. A year later I had my tonsils and adenoids removed. This operation helped my general health but again, did not change my sinus condition. I always carried a nasal spray in my pocket to help me breathe, particularly at night so I could get to sleep.

That afternoon I decided I would "humble" myself and at the end of the line, I knelt down and asked for prayer. As the ministers laid their hands upon me, one of my organists from the church came up and laid her hands on my sinus regions. Her fingers felt like ice blocks and as they prayed, I gave the benediction. Immediately I went out the back door of the hall and for about fifteen minutes spit up the mucus from my sinuses. Afterwards all the pressure and pain had disappeared. I could breathe clearly through both nostrils without the aid of a spray. Sixteen years later I can still breathe freely. How I praise God continually for His mercy and grace!

Since that time, God has miraculously healed my body of other afflictions on numerous occasions. I've seen Him touch many others through the ministry of laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the prayers of faith. Praise His wonderful Name!

Shortly after my experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, God led me into a ministry of prayer intercession and prayer therapy to help people with very deep-seated spiritual needs. Over the years the outreach of this ministry of liberation or deliverance for Christians has grown. It has brought many into a greater measure of freedom. I praise God continually. I praise Jesus for His marvelous grace. I praise Him for the beautiful gifts of the Holy Spirit as they have been ministered to many people in this ministry to glorify the Name of Jesus.

Let me go back and pick up some of the events which led me into this amazing ministry of liberation which has been such a blessing to myself and so many others.

Chapter III

LIVING VICTORIOUSLY

THE RIVER OF LIFE

I would like to share with you a vision that has actually transformed my whole ministry of Life in the Spirit. It has given me an understanding both of people and of some of the problems they face in their spiritual lives. It has also opened up a way of explaining the ministry of liberation in Christ Jesus more clearly.

Upon graduation, as mentioned previously, I was sent up to Northern Ontario for my first pastoral charge. We saw God move in great power, touching many people, bringing them into a new dimension of faith in Him. Over the years, as I have watched as a pastor, I've been overwhelmed at times by the tremendous change in people when they give their lives to Jesus as Saviour and Lord. But there has been something that puzzled me. Though some people appear to start off with tremendous joy and release, before long the pressures of life weigh them down and they seem to lose their initial joy and freedom.

I have watched this phenomenon with quite a bit of concern over the years and always in the back of my mind there has been the question, "Why?" I noticed, too, that my life was not always as powerful or as joyful as I would have liked it to be. There were times when I would be on a mountain top, particularly when I was under the anointing for preaching the message on Sundays. Then, through the rest of the week, it seemed that there was always that "low," almost like living in a valley. So there was fluctuation from high moments to low moments.

After almost five years in the ministry I suddenly sensed a real hunger for a greater awareness of God. I was reading in the Acts of the Apostles and I noticed that the early Christians had tremendous power. The Spirit of God was so real to them.

Following that six-month period of crying out to God, generally in the Psalmist's words of prayer - (*"Create within me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me." "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and see if there be any wicked way within me,"*) – I entered another dimension of faith known as the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. That was when the tremendous power of God's love gripped my life. The Scriptures became an even greater witness of His love. New truths leaped off the pages of the Book which I had read faithfully for so many years and became the LIVING WORD!

I have watched since that time, over a period of sixteen years, and I have noticed that people who have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit have a tremendous surge of power, life, joy, and release in the Spirit. But from time to time, I have seen people who have had this experience lose their initial joy, their initial walking in power. Again, the question would come to me - *"Why, Lord? Why?"*

I know that when a person is born again of the Spirit of the Living God a new dimension of living begins. John 1:12 says, *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in his name."* In John 3 when Nicodemus was confronted by Jesus in his search for the meaning of life, Jesus said to him, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (Verse 3) Again, verse 5 reads, *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* Then again, in Revelation 3:20b, it says, *"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

So, when we open our lives to Christ, He enters into our experience. We are born again. The Spirit of God takes up residence within our lives. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:16, *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* It is a tremendous thing when we begin to realize this, that God's Spirit dwells within our bodies. But as I have watched people's lives, as a pastor, and watched my own life from time to time, I have become aware of what we might call "in-depth problems" that seem to hinder our spiritual walk.

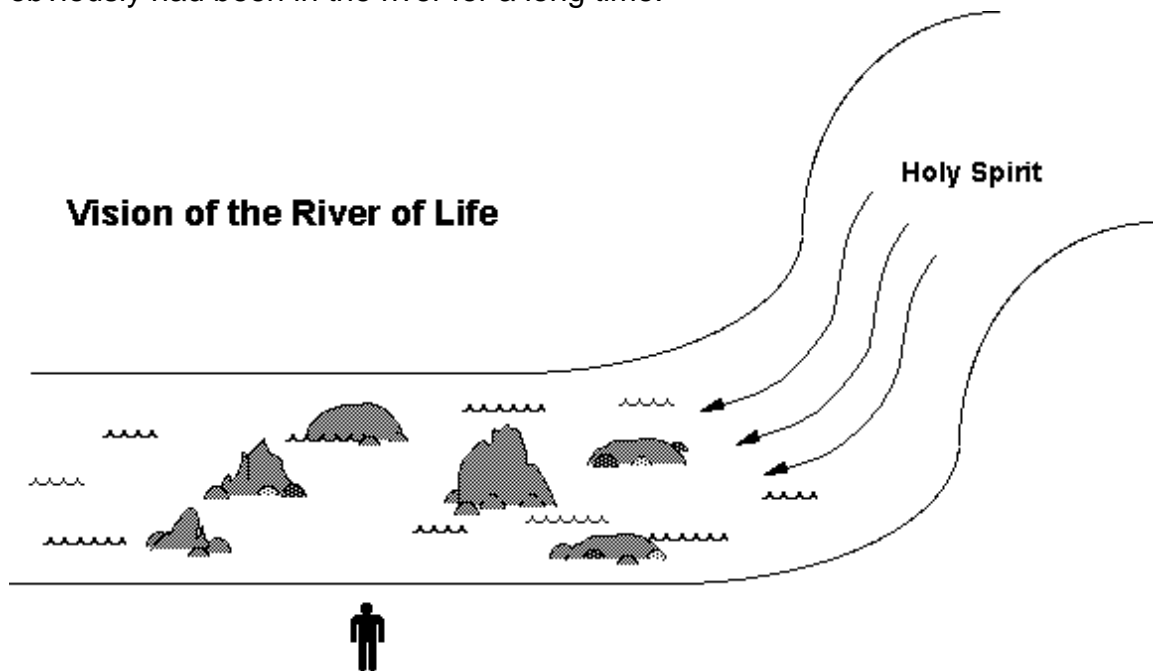
Again, my question was, *"Why, Lord? Is there no way in this life to live victoriously?"* I read in the Scriptures the words of Jesus, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10b) But where was this abundant life that Jesus said that he would give to those who love Him? I had experienced this life myself at times, but it seemed to drain away so quickly.

In my search for an answer I began to cry out to God in earnest, asking Him to show me why this was, and to show me in a modern day illustration what was happening, so that I might, first of all, understand it for myself, and then help other people to gain victory in Christ.

One day as I was praying in the spirit, seeking the will of God, I saw a vision. This was about the fourth vision I had had. (I am not asleep during these visions. God seems to open a dimension that is closed to us in our normal ways.) In this vision I saw a very beautiful river flowing from high up on a mountain. I could not see the source of it but

as the river flowed down the mountain side, it filled the channel of the river, I seemed to be standing on the bank, looking at this beautiful river as it flowed by at my feet. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of it. I have been to the Rocky Mountains and have seen some of the beautiful rivers that flow from the glaciers, but this river was different. The water was clear as crystal. I stood there watching for some time. I had never seen such a beautiful river in all my life.

Suddenly, as I watched, some rapids began to form on the surface. I found myself becoming disturbed inside, and I said, out loud, "*What is spoiling the beauty of that river?*" As I watched, I noticed six large boulders rising out of the water. Some of them were very sharp and jagged. Others were rounded off and obviously had been in the river for a long time.



As I continued to watch, I noticed that the rocks and boulders were not coming up out of the river but that the water was actually sinking down slowly lower and lower between its banks. As the water continued to go down, I noticed that at the base of the large boulders were a lot of little stones that had been trapped there and had gathered around the base of the large ones.

Again, I noticed that as the water continued to go down, its flow was being hindered. The water seeped around the boulders but never entirely stopped running. I said, "*Father, how can a Christian have any boulders in his life after he has been born again of the Spirit? Your Word says, 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.'*" (II Corinthians 5:17-20)

As I quoted these verses, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "*What became new when you were born again? Did you get a new body?*" (My understanding of the whole man is that of being a body, soul, and spirit.)

I thought about that for a few moments and then I said, "*No, I didn't get a new body. I still have the same body that I had when I was born again at seventeen and a half years of age. It has grown since then.*"

Then I said, "*I know there are many times when the Holy Spirit quickens my body, and I have been miraculously healed several times, but I still have the same body.*"

Then the question was asked, "*Did you get a new soul?*"

(I understand the soul as being what we might call all the motive forces of life, our mind or intellect, our emotions, and our will.) As I thought about, these three areas of the soul, I thought for a moment about my mind and said, "*I know there are times, Lord, when my mind is quickened by the Holy Spirit and I think Your thoughts. But I know a lot of the time my own thoughts are there, and sometimes I know the thoughts that cross my mind do not come from You, Father, and I don't think they originate in me, for they are too wicked. They are not my normal way of thinking!*"

"*Did you get new emotions?*"

Again, I said, "*Lord I know there are times when my emotions are quickened by the power of the Holy Spirit, but there are times when they are very much my own emotions, and at other times they seem to be touched by powers other than You, Father, or me.*"

"*Did you get a new will?*"

Again, I said, "*Lord, I know that my will is guided by Your Sovereign will and I have seen many miracles of grace flow through me, but there are other times when my own stubborn will seems to take over, and then there have been times when my will seems to be touched by something or someone other than You or me.*"

"*What became new when you were born again?*"

I finally felt like a child in school who at least knew one out of five and I said, "*I know, Father, I got a new Spirit!*"

Then the Scriptures flooded my mind. Ezekiel 11:19, "*And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That They may walk in my*

statutes....", and 1 Corinthians 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

I said, *"Lord, how can I get rid of these boulders in that stream?"*

A very powerful verse of Scriptures came to me at that time, Acts 4:1 2b, *"For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (That name is, "Jesus!")

I had already done some homework in Greek on this word "saved," which is "soteria," and discovered that it meant more than just being forgiven and saved in the traditional sense of the word. In that word there is deliverance or liberation; in that word there is healing; in that word there is wholeness, there is abundant life. Then I understood the words of Jesus when he said, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10b) As I thought of the boulders sitting in that stream, and as I saw the water flowing down so beautifully, I realized that God was showing me a vision of life-the river of life.

The vision disappeared and then my understanding was opened. The water flowing down the mountain from the source was none other than the water or the river of the Holy Spirit. I recognized also that the river bed at my feet was my own life, or the Christian life, and that there are times when that river of life has the Holy Spirit flowing in full power, flooding right up to the top of its banks. That's when we have the tremendous high moments or what we call "mountaintop experiences of life." But as the water had dropped down, I recognized also that though there are times when the Holy Spirit is still flowing in full power, something is hindering or robbing us of the flow in our lives.

The Boulders

I thought quite a bit about the vision that I had received but for a while it did not make much sense to me. Then, about ten days later, as I was praying in the Spirit, I saw the vision of the river again. Everything was the same as the first time I had seen it, only this time when the river started to go down, I was surprised that the big boulders had names. These names were Murder, Suicide, Occult, Religions, Immorality, and Afflictions.

To my amazement, as I watched the river going down even lower, I saw the little boulders gathered around the six large ones and a lot of others scattered along the river bed which hadn't shown up until the water went right down. All had names which I could read. I said, *"Lord, what are you showing me?"*

Trapped by the big boulder of MURDER were the small boulders named the spirits of violence, wrath, hatred, bitterness, resentments, anger, Jealousy, and

pride. These are generally the forces directed toward other people or things (extrovert behaviour).

Then I also noticed SUICIDE, surrounded by smaller boulders called spirits of depression, obsessions, oppressions, self-pity, violence, wrath, hatred, bitterness, resentments, anger, jealousy, and pride. These are the forces which generally bury themselves deep within our subconscious (introvert behaviour).

Gathered around the very large boulder called OCCULT, there were a lot of little boulders called spirits of horoscopes, ouiji, seance, fortune telling, card reading, palmistry, tea cup reading, astrology, hypnosis, graphology, yoga, transcendental meditation, occult readings (including Jean Dixon, Ruth Montgomery, Edgar Cayce, and others), levitation, witchcraft, spiritualism, numerology, E.S.P., occult shows (including "The Exorcist," "The Omen," "The Tenant," "The Skull," and "Rosemary's Baby"), astral-projection, automatic handwriting, water witching, necromancy, curses and hexes, voodooism, the pendulum, pyramidology, Scientology, and P.S.I.

Then another large boulder, called RELIGIONS, came to my attention. Around this boulder were Jehovah Witness, Christian Science, Mormonism, spirits of denominations, false religions, false cults, false teachings, witchcraft, spiritualism, spirits of religious "isms" (including Hinduism, Buddhism), Unity, and Scientology, etc.

Then, my eyes fell on the large boulder entitled, IMMORALITY, and around it were names such as spirits of lust, homosexuality lesbianism, pornography, pornographic reading, impurities, adultery, fornication, masturbation, incest, bestiality, and sexual fantasies. (In dealing with these, the Holy Spirit will often reveal the names of people who have hurt our lives in these areas.)

Looking up from those boulders, I saw the large boulder entitled BODILY AFFLICTIONS, which included the following spirits: allergies, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, drugs, drinking and alcohol, smoking and nicotine, rheumatism and arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, heart problems, circulation problems, deafness, migraines and headaches, rashes, skin irritations, and others.

Then I noticed a large number of other boulders which were scattered throughout the river bed. They were not quite as big as the original six but they also had names on them. The first of these was called FEARS, and it named quite a number of various kinds of fear. Other boulders were lying and falsehood, cheating, stealing, petty thievery, confusion, and frustration.

There was one boulder beneath the surface that was quite large and long, stretching almost across the river right at the start of the section of the river near

me. This boulder was called UNBELIEF AND HARDNESS OF HEART, the very thing which Jesus warned His own disciples of on the first Easter day. (Mark 16:14)

As the waters continued to drop, quite a large number of boulders of varying sizes appeared in the river bed, scattered in various areas. These I call the "odd balls." There was one called UNREALITY, with smaller boulders around it such as fairy stories, fantasy, day dreaming, unreal and untrue readings, dreams, nightmares, superstitions, imaginations, TV and Radio, movies, horror movies, and music. Others were harshness, cruelty, sadism, persecution, vanity, deceit, revenge, retaliation. The names of more and more of these boulders were scattered along the river bed: rebellion and disobedience, indifference and apathy, sadness and unhappiness, ridicule and laughter, sarcasm, criticism, negativism, impatience, inferiority and superiority, perfectionism, blasphemy, cursing and swearing, profanity, gossip, nervousness, uneasiness, unrest, tension and tenseness, hesitancy and hesitation, condemnation and self-condemnation, unworthiness, worthlessness, slavery, imprisonment, and bondage.

Others included false fronts, false masks, phoniness, gluttony and overeating, fatigue and tiredness, procrastination and laziness, unloving and unforgiveness, selfishness, hurts, shyness, teasing, hiding, loneliness, inadequacy, withdrawal, envy, anxiety, impatience, stress, memory loss, forgetfulness, failure, discouragement, despondency, weakness, fearfulness, mistrust, lying spirits, guilt and remorse, rejection and self-rejection, doubts and disbelief, and sorrows.

I was almost overwhelmed by what I was seeing and I said, *"Lord, these are the conscious and subconscious things that we go through in life. These are the negative forces that actually become snared in our minds. These are the things that rise within us-experiences of life that will sometimes rise to hurt us, destroy us, and rob us. This is human nature!"*

Then I began to realize that it was true-that spirits of bitterness, jealousy, hatred, and other forces would actually rob us of the joy or the power of the Living God day-to-day.

"Lord, is there any place in the Bible where it shows that a Christian might have some boulders after he has been born again?"

Immediately the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, *"Turn to Colossians 3 where it says, 'If ye then be risen with Christ,' (Paul is talking to Christians now-those who are risen with Christ), 'seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.' "* (Verses 1-4)

Paul continues, *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"* (Verse 5)

Then he goes on to say, *"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"* (Verses 8-10)

"Paul, you must have made a mistake," I thought. *"You couldn't have been talking to Christians!"*

I was taken back to Verse 1, *"If ye then be risen with Christ"*

Can Christians have these kinds of things within their lives? Apparently, for Paul suggests that we do. These are fleshly things that war against our spirit.

Liberation and inner Healing

Paul goes on, in that beautiful passage in Colossians 3, to tell us what to do. He says, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, it any man have a quarrel against any:"* (Verses 12, 13a)

Then he says, *"And above all these things put on charity [love], which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Verses 14-17)*

I then said, *"Father, your Word says that in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established (Matthew 18:16 and II Corinthians 13:1) Can you show me anywhere else in the Scriptures where it shows that a person might have a few boulders after he has become a Christian?"*

The Lord spoke again, *"Turn to Galatians 5."*

When I had opened to that Chapter, He said, *"Start reading at Verse 16."*

'This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.' " (Verses 16-21)

I thought, *"Something is wrong with my understanding of Scriptures here. Paul is saying if we do any of the things of the flesh we do not inherit the Kingdom, but I know that I inherited the Kingdom when I was born again."*

If I did not identify myself since being born again, with some of the Galatians list, I certainly saw myself in some of the list in Colossians 3. *"Father,"* I said, *"Your Word says, 'Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:' (John 16:13a) in Jesus' name, I ask you, Father, for your Spirit of Truth to come and reveal what this passage really means."*

"Take an example!" He said.

"I don't understand," I replied.

"If you have a spirit of resentment or bitterness against your brother man, can my perfect love flow through you to your brother man?"

I replied, *"If I have a spirit of resentment or bitterness toward my brother man you cannot use me as a channel of your love to him."* Then I began to see the implication of all the boulders in the stream.

"I see," I said, *"it in any area of my mind, emotions, will or body there are boulders present I do not inherit (enjoy the benefits of) the Kingdom even though in other areas of my body and soul where there are no boulders and in my spirit I enjoy the benefits of His Life."*

"Lord! How do I get rid of all the boulders?" I asked.

The triumphant voice of victory seemed to fill my being again. *"For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (Jesus!) (Acts 4:12)

"*In the name of Jesus,*" I said, and by the power of His Name all the boulders were cast out.

I noted the sand and gravel in the river bed again, as I had seen it after the first vision, and thought, "*Well, a little sand and gravel in the stream will clear out any impurities in the water.*" If I had only thought what the water represented, the Holy Spirit flowing, I would have asked some more questions.

I said, "*Lord, is there anything else You would like to teach me on this matter?*"

"*Yes, turn to 1 John, Chapter 3.*"

"*Why, that's my favourite passage,*" I thought, "*especially the first two verses.*"

I began to read, "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*" (Verses 1,2) (This is a beautiful summary of the Christian Life.)

I read Verse 3, "*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*" I paused and thought, "*Then there must be a way for me to purify myself since the Word says it.*"

"*Read on,*" He said.

I got down to Verse 5 and read, "*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*"

I said, "*I don't have any trouble with this verse. I know that the blood of Jesus was shed to take away our sins.*"

He said, "*Read on.*"

I got down to Verse 8b, "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested,*" was repeated from Verse 5, but now it was to "*destroy the works of the devil.*"

"*Does not this mean exactly the same as taking away our sins? Is it not just good Greek meaning parallelism, or does it mean something different?*"

"*Take an example,*" the Lord spoke.

"*I don't understand,*" I replied.

"Take a look out your window and what do you see?"

"I see a maple tree," I replied.

"If you wanted to get rid of the maple tree, what would you do?"

"Well, I would go over to the house, get my axe, lay the axe to the root of the tree, chop the tree down, chop it all up and truck it away."

"Would you really get rid of the tree?"

"Yes, I wouldn't see it anymore and no one else would. Oh!" I thought, "You are talking about the roots in the ground that might grow again, producing not one trunk with branches but several trunks with branches."

"How would you get rid of the roots?"

"I guess I would have to change my tool, go over and get my shovel and start digging, make sure I dug them all out, truck them all away, fill in the hole, and plant new grass seed and another tree if I wanted one."

"I begin to see the meaning, Lord," I said. "When I ask Jesus to forgive all my sins 'The axe is laid at the root of the tree' and all my sins are cleansed, taken away, in that precious blood of Jesus, and when the Father looks down on me he doesn't see my sins, He only sees my Saviour. That's why there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:1,2) I am perfectly justified in Christ, but in me there may be some roots which may grow again, and it takes the Name of Jesus and the Name of the Child Jesus (Acts 4:29,30), the latter to deal with the inheritance and child spirits (those roots which begin in childhood), to get rid of the roots."

This was a tremendous confirmation of the ministry of liberation which I had seen work in inner healing for so many people over the years, bringing them into a new freedom and liberty in Christ Jesus.

I said, *"Lord, is there anything else you want to teach me in this?"*

He said, *"Yes, think of your Communion service."*

"What do you want to teach me, Lord?"

"What does the Cup represent for you?"

"I have no trouble with this, Lord. I know it represents the precious blood of Jesus shed for the remission, cleansing, of all my sins. And I know, Lord, you showed me quite a few years ago there was protection under that blood for my own life and family as I lay claim to it by faith like Israel of old." (See Exodus 12:7,13)

"What does the Bread represent to you?" the Lord asked.

"Strange you should ask that, Lord. I have always had some trouble understanding the full spiritual significance of the broken Bread, but I know that you did show me a few years ago that it represented the breaking of Christ's body by the cruel lashes of the Roman soldiers, and by those stripes I was healed. (1 Peter 3:24, Isaiah 53:5) I saw healing in the broken bread. Is there something more?" I asked.

"How do you represent a body?" the Lord asked.

"I don't understand," I replied.

"How do you identify a body?"

"Well, I give it a name," I said. "Oh! I see. That broken body is identified by a name, Jesus, the very name which has set so many free over the years in ministry."

"Oh, Lord," I said, "what a beautiful understanding of the spiritual meaning of the Lord's Supper. Here in symbolic form is the message of the full Gospel: the Cup representing complete cleansing and protection in that precious blood of Jesus; the Bread representing complete healing and liberation in our blessed Saviour."

"Thank you, Father. Thank you, Jesus!"

Now, with this greater understanding of the Scriptural basis of the ministry of liberation or deliverance and the revelation of the names of many of these boulders, the counseling sessions with people became a time of sharing and teaching the Biblical principles behind the ministry. Previous to these visions, considerable time had been spent trying to identify and get the names of the things or forces which were bothering people and hindering their spiritual walk.

For six months I continued to minister as people came for liberation in ever-increasing numbers, particularly after sharing the two visions in a public meeting of the F.G.B.M. (Full Gospel Business Men) along with my testimony.

One Sunday morning as I was praying in the Spirit getting ready to go to Church, suddenly the vision appeared the third time. Immediately I looked in the water for my boulders and to my surprise there wasn't any. I can remember saying, "Praise the Lord! My river is free of boulders." The second thing I noted was that the river

which had gone right down to the river bed in the first two visions, only went down a short distance and then went right back up again. In other words, there were surface storms, but the depths were peaceful and quiet. I noticed the river, in full flood all the time now, started to wash away the sand and gravel on the river bed very quickly. Buried in the gravel were a few large, flat-topped boulders which looked as though they had been broken off, with names similar to some of the boulders I had cast out earlier. I can remember saying that morning, "*Oh, no! Not more boulders! How long do I have to keep casting boulders out of my life? Forever?*"

In answer to my prayer, or groan, (whatever it was), I noticed that the sand and gravel washed away very quickly and the bedrock of the riverbed appeared. When I saw the bedrock, the same voice of victory which I had heard before said, "*And that rock is Jesus!*"

I replied, "*Well, I know now what to do with those boulders! In Jesus' name!*" - and all the boulders were cast out.

I then noticed a very beautiful thing happen in a few seconds of that vision. The river flowing over the rock polished that rock face into a mirror. Not only could I see the beautiful river, which is so hard to find words in English to describe, but now I was seeing its reflection.

I said, "*Lord, where is that found in the Scriptures?*"

I was reminded of Elijah and Elisha, in II Kings 2:9-13. What a beautiful illustration. Just as Elisha received his request of a double portion so I was seeing a double portion of that beautiful river.

I noticed in the reflection a little haze or darkness and I said, "*Lord, where is that found in the Scriptures?*"

I was reminded of that passage, "*Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face.*" (1 Corinthians 13:12a) The Lord seemed to impress upon me a paraphrase of this, "*Now we reflect the glory of Jesus, not perfectly, because we can still sin, but when He is come, it shall be a perfect reflection for we shall see Him as He is.*"

That Sunday morning I remember saying, "*Father, I don't care how long it takes, I don't care what you have to do to me, get rid of all the boulders, all of the sand and gravel, and I know that as long as I am a human being I won't perfectly reflect your glory.*"

I went to get out of my chair to go to church, but before I could move the Lord spoke a word of prophecy to me.

"My son, I want to show you a mystery, that in these last days I am pouring out my Spirit upon all flesh. I am saving those who belong to my church. I am filling them with the Holy Spirit, and I am taking out of their lives anything that would hinder the Holy Spirit through them. For when I come for my church, I have come for a church that is without spot or wrinkle."

"Praise God! Thank you, Jesus!"

What a blessed truth of what God is doing in our day and generation in this great move of the Holy Spirit to prepare the church for the great wedding feast of the Lamb.

Chapter IV

METHOD OF MINISTRY

With this background of understanding of the ministry of liberation, if people want to continue in what I call prayer therapy, I share the related Scriptures God revealed to me.

- Matt. 12:21 *"And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."*
- Matt. 12:29 *"Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house."*
- John 14:12-14 *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth in me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do: because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father maybe glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."*
- Matt. 17:20 *"And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."*
- Mark 1 1:23 *"For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."*
- Mark 1 1:24 *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*
- Matt. 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."*
- Matt. 18:18 *"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

- Matt. 18: 19 *"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."*
- Matt. 21:22 *"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."*
- Matt. 7:7 *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."*
- II Cor. 7:1 *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

After claiming the preceding scriptures as the foundation for the ministry of prayer for liberation, I ask the person to, first of all, thank Jesus for saving them and, if they have received the Baptism of the Spirit, to thank God for this blessing, and spend a few moments in a prayer of thanksgiving for all His blessings over the years. Then we join together out loud in a general prayer of confession.

"Father in heaven, Lord Jesus, I ask You to forgive me for all my sins; to wash me clean in Your most precious blood. I am sorry for all my sins. 'Create within me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.' Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me. Thank you, Jesus, for coming alive for me. Thank you, Father. Thank you, Jesus."

Just before beginning the actual prayers for liberation I once more claim the power of the blood of Jesus over all our families, naming the husband, or wife, and any children, by name, and over all the relatives, and even the city and country. Then I pray the following prayer.

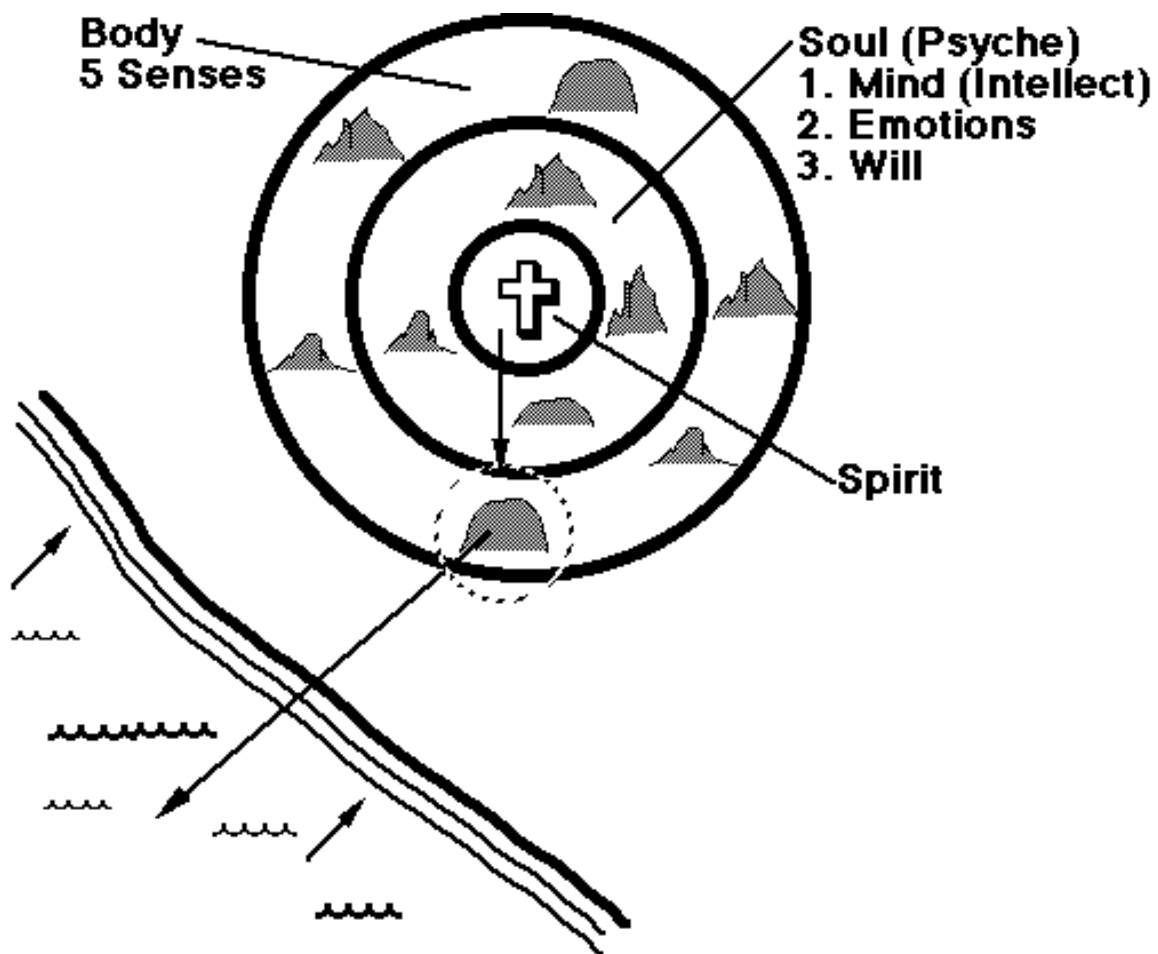
"Father, I ask You in Jesus' name to take absolute control over everything we do, say, or even think, -to guard us from any error of interpretation of Your Word, any error of judgment, and any error of speaking, -and we will be sure to give You all the glory and praise. Once more, Father, in Jesus' name and in the name of the Holy Child Jesus, I take authority over any power of Satan that has ever touched our minds, our emotions, our wills or our bodies in any way. I bind and break all these powers and command that they have no power to touch us in any way, except if there are any, they have permission to give their name, or names, quietly and distinctly, and then to be cast out into the depths of the deepest sea, and I claim the power of the blood of Jesus against them all. Lord Jesus, I ask you to fill every cell of our being with your abundant life. Amen!"

Next I ask the person to follow me in the prayers of liberation, cautioning him (or her) to use exactly the same words I use, to follow the law of scriptures: *"If two of you shall agree..."* (Matthew 18:19).

I say, "In the name of Jesus,"(and the person repeats, "In the name of Jesus")
(Acts 4:10,12)

"In the name of the Holy Child Jesus," ("In the name of the Holy Child Jesus")
(Acts 4:29,30)

"I bind and break all the powers of the spirits of unbelief and hardness of heart. I cast them out of my mind, my emotions, my will (soul) and my body into the depths of the (deepest) sea (the deep, the abyss) and I claim the power of the blood of Jesus against them all. (Mark 11: 1 2-24) Lord Jesus, I ask you to fill this whole area of my life with Your spirit of truth, Your love for Your Word, and Your abundant life. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Father."



Then we proceed in the same way, naming each of the large boulders and their related smaller ones, and then on to all the others, in small groups, being careful not to take too many at a time.

Note: I have found if you bind these forces and command that they have no power, except, (if there are any) to give their name or names quietly and distinctly and then to be cast out, the person need not show any negative physical manifestation. If they do, you are probably praying out too many at a time in certain areas. Satan likes to try to scare us (or others who might be watching) with physical manifestations, and will probably try to turn other people who need liberation away from the ministry. *"Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."*

I have found many people and churches have backed away from this beautiful ministry of liberation because the person praying has not bound these forces according to scripture, and the physical manifestations of coughing, choking, spitting, and sometimes screaming or being thrown on the floor, etc., have been experienced. In rare cases of possession in unbelievers this may happen, but I firmly believe that if we exercise our Scriptural authority properly, these frightening and upsetting manifestations in the ministry of liberation, or deliverance, need not be there.

After all the boulders (spirits or forces) have been named and prayed out, I generally pray a precautionary prayer at the end.

"If there are any other spirits or forces, I break all your powers and bind you, smash all your idols or images, break all your cords and close all your doors in every area of my life, and cast you all into the depths of the deepest sea."

"Lord Jesus, I ask you to fill every cell of my being with Your spirit of truth, Your spirit of purity, Your love for Your Word, and with Your abundant life. Jesus, I ask You to be the door of my mind, my emotions, my will and my body. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Father."

" Lord Jesus, I ask you to walk back into every cell of my being and heal all of my memory traces and all of my hurts. Father in heaven, Lord Jesus, I believe Your Word is true. Thank you, for delivering me and setting me free. I accept my release by faith, not by feelings, on the basis of Your Word. Your Word also says, 'If we being evil know how to give good gifts [good things] unto our children, how much more will you give good things [give the Holy Spirit] to them that ask you.' (Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13) Father in heaven, Lord Jesus, I ask you now to baptize me with the Holy Ghost and with fire. (Or if they have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 'I ask you for a fresh and full anointing of the Holy Spirit.') Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Father."

Then raise your hands in worship as a physical sign of total surrender to Jesus, worship Him, and praise His Holy Name. Thank the Father and Jesus for His mercy and grace, and as the Spirit of God wells up within, let the river of God, the water of life, overflow in words of praise and thanksgiving in the Spirit.

Further instructions for the Days Following Liberation

Sometimes Satan counter-attacks with lies and words of condemnation and scorn for the ministry and tries to throw the thoughts and feelings back at you. It is important that you stand firm on the word of your testimony, Revelation 12:11, "*They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony.*" Ground your faith in the Word of God; stand firm on the basis of His Word. Jesus said in John 10:10, "*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.*"

When my past is thrown at me I pray in this way, "*Satan, in Jesus' name I rebuke you. You have no rights and no privileges. I give you no ground. This is blood-bought soil. I belong to Jesus. On (your date of liberation), I was completely set free in Jesus. I will not accept your lies, I claim the power of the blood of Jesus against you.*" Then I praise God, lift my voice in song, quote the Scriptures and go about my daily life.

At the beginning of every day one of your opening prayers should be: "*Father, I claim the power of the blood of Jesus over my own life and over my wife (husband, family, etc., naming them by name). Jesus, our passover, is sacrificed for us. (1 Corinthians 5:7b) If, when the enemy passes through the land, when he sees the blood, he has to pass over. (Exodus 12:13) Praise God!*"

It is important also that we clothe ourselves, by prayer, in the armour of the Lord each day. The following scriptures and prayers will help you.

Stand Fast in The Liberty

Each day the Christian needs to avail himself, or herself, of the provisions that God has made possible in His Word for staying free.

Galatians 5:1 "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*"

- Galatians 5:2 5 *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*
- John 10:10 *"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."*
- Ephesians 4:27 *"Give no place to the devil."*
- James 4:7 *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*
- 1 Peter 5:8,9 *"Be sober, be vigilant [watchful and cautious]: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist [withstand] steadfast in the faith,...."*
- 1 Cor. 10:14 *"Flee from idolatry."*
- II Timothy 2:22 *"Flee also youthful lusts, but follow after righteousness."*
- 1 Cor. 5:7 *"Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." Part of that sacrifice included protection for the house by the blood of the lamb. (Exodus 12:3,22.23)*

Daily Prayer Father, I claim the power of the blood of Jesus over my home, my life, my wife (or husband) and my family. Jesus, you are my passover covenant protection.

- Ephesians 6:10-18 *"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God... that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day." (Matthew 6:11 Give us this day...vs.12 Forgive us...vs.13 Deliver us from evil.) Need daily-for bread (filling), forgiveness, deliverance.*

Putting On the Armour

- Ephesians 6:14 Father, I thank you for the belt of truth. Thy Word is truth. Lead me in Thy Truth. Sanctify me through Thy Truth. Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. (John 17:17; Psalm 25:5; John 14:6)
- Ephesians 6:14 As I put on the breastplate of righteousness, I thank you that Jesus is made unto us righteousness, sanctification and redemption and I stand complete in Him. (1 Corinthians 1:31, Colossians 2:10)

- Ephesians 6:17 I take the helmet of salvation. I thank you that I am healed, forgiven, delivered and made whole. I receive the mind of Christ, I thank you that you are working in me to will and to do your good pleasure. As the face plate covers me, I am hidden with Christ, in you, Father. I will not forget Thy Word. (1 Corinthians 2:1 6; Philippians 3:13; Colossians 3:3; Psalm 119:16)
- Ephesians 6:15 I put on the shoes of peace. "*All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*" "*Order my steps in Thy Word.*" "*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*"(Psalm 25:10; 119:133a,105)
- Ephesians 6:16 I take the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. "*This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*" "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [the world]: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" (1 John 5:4b,4:4)
- Ephesians 6:17 I take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. "*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*" (Hebrews 4: 1 2)
- Ephesians 6:18 "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*"
- Romans 12:1 Father, I yield my body to you as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto you and all my different parts as instruments of your righteousness. (Romans 6:13)
- Isaiah 58:8 Father, I thank you that your glory is my rear guard.
- John 1 6:13 Father, I ask you for the Spirit of truth to come and guide me this day as I study and meditate upon your Word and that He will lead me into all truth. I pray that your Word will be a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and that my steps be ordered by your Word. (Psalm 119:105,113)

Father, I thank you for the invitation to come boldly to your throne of grace that I obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need and I thank you that your grace is sufficient and will supply all my need according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Hebrews 4:16; II Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:19)

In standing fast in the Liberty there are times when you will have to overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony (Revelation 12:11), particularly when he is accusing you or trying to bring condemnation from your past. You will need to quote the Word of Scripture. "*There is therefore no condemnation [now] to them which are in Christ Jesus . . .*" (Romans 8:1a)

You must hide God's Word in your heart and when dealing with the enemy use the Word of God, the Power of the Name of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus, and pray in the Spirit and sing praise unto God.

Summary of the Scripture Keys for Spiritual Liberty In Christ Jesus

God's sovereign purpose for life in Jesus Christ.

John 10:10b "*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly [overflowing].*"

II Cor. 3:17b "*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*"

It is important to know as Christians: (1) who we are, (2) what we have, and (3) what authority and power we have in Christ Jesus. -(What God has done for us in Christ Jesus.)

WHO WE ARE!

- Children of God by faith (Galatians 3:26)
- Sons (children of God) (1 John 3:2)
- Adopted into His family (Ephesians 1:5)
- New creatures in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17)
- Ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20)
- Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17)
- One body in Christ (Romans 12:5)
- We are complete in Him (Colossians 2:10)
- Born unto a lively [living] hope (1 Peter 1:3)
- Being built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:5)
- Kings and priests unto God (Revelation 1:6)

WHAT WE HAVE!

- Everlasting life (John 3:16)
- Power to become sons (John 1:12)
- Forgiveness of all sin (1 John 1:9)
- Redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14)
- Been blessed with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3)
- Obtained an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)
- Been raised up unto heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)
- Boldness and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)
- Have peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- No condemnation-set free from law of sin and death (Romans 8:1)
- All has become new (II Corinthians 5:17)
- His Spirit indwelling (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- Given us an understanding (1 John 5:20)

WHAT GOD HAD DONE FOR US IN CHRIST JESUS!!!

Two reasons Jesus was manifested

1. To take away our sins (1 John 3:5) Cleanse us and reconcile us to God (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 9:22)
2. To destroy the works of the devil. By the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12) Salvation in no other Name (Romans 10:13)

The word Salvation (soteria) in its fullest meaning covers 4 areas.

1. FORGIVENESS - Through the Blood. (1 John 1: 9, ; Hebrews 9:22)
2. HEALING - Through the Body of our Lord Jesus. (1 Peter 2:24)
3. DELIVERANCE OR LIBERATION - Through the authority we have in Christ's Name. (Matthew 10:1, Luke 10:1, Matthew 16:19, 18:18-20)
4. WHOLENESS - By returning to give thanks (Luke 17:19); by faith (Matthew 9:22); by thought (Matthew 14:36); by the Name of Jesus (Acts 4:9)

LIBERATION

Why do we need liberation? The works of the flesh war against the Spirit. (Galatians 5:17-21; Colossians 3:5,8,9; Ephesians 4:25, 29,31; Ephesians 5:3-5)

The Apostle Paul's prayer for Christians-to be sanctified wholly-spirit, soul and body. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Scripture Keys for Prayers of Liberation

- Power of the Name of Jesus (Acts 4:12)
- Signs and wonders in the Name of the Child Jesus (Acts 4:30)
- We can do all things (Philippians 4:13; Matthew 21:21,22)
- Power given to disciples (Matthew 10:1; Luke 10:1)
- Power given to the Church (Matthew 16:19)
- Keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 18:18)
- The Word (rhema) is in thy mouth (Romans 10:8)
- Power in the spoken Word (Romans 10:9)
- Confession unto salvation (Romans 10:10)
- Need to enter strong man's house [territory] (Matthew 12:29)
- Ask believing (Matthew 7:7, 21:22; John 14:12-14, 15:7)
- Faith as a grain of mustard seed (Matthew 17:20)
- Say to the mountain [boulder] (Mark 11:23)
- Believe that you receive (Mark 1 1:24)
- Authority to bind and loose-keys (Matthew 16:19, 18:18)
- Two in agreement-in asking (Matthew 18:19)
- Two to three-gathered in His Name (Matthew 18:20)
- Power to remit [make void, cancel out the power] and retain (bind, get a hold) (John 20:23)
- Power to overcome [Revelation 12:11)

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CLAIM THE PROMISES AND ACT ON THEM (11 Corinthians 7:1)

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After prayers of liberation, be sure to ask God to fill each area with His abundant Life, then thank Him. Give praise to Jesus.

"If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

Additional Help For Spiritual Discernment and Discernment of Impressions

Ephesians 6:12 *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world [world forces of this darkness], against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

1 John 4:1 *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try [test] the spirits whether they are of God. because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

Spirits are tested by the word of confession:

"That Jesus Christ is come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2)

"That Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 4:15).

The antichrist denies that Jesus is the Christ, denies the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22)

Recognition of How the Enemy Works

1. Among the sons of God before the Lord (Job 1:6)
2. He goes to and fro in the earth and walking up and down (Job 1:7)
3. Walketh about as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
4. Author of sin in the world (Genesis 3:1-6)
5. Author of sickness (Acts 10:38; Luke 13:16)
6. Power of death (Hebrews 2:14)
7. Tempts men to sin (Matthew 4:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
8. Lays snares (1 Timothy 3:7; 11 Timothy 2:26)
9. Puts wicked thoughts and rebellion into the hearts of people (Acts 5:3; John 13:2,27; II Corinthians 10:5)
10. Blinds the minds of unbelievers (II Corinthians 4:4)
11. Snatches the Word out of the heart (Mark 4:15; Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12)
12. Sows tares in God's fields (Matthew 13:39)
13. Comes with deception and power (II Thessalonians 2:9, 10; II Corinthians 11:14)
14. Resists the servants of God (Zechariah 3:1; Daniel 10:13; Acts 16:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; Luke 22:31)
15. Accuses the brethren before God day and night (Revelation 1 2:9, 10)

Some of the Enemy's Titles in the Word

1. The wicked one (Matthew 13:19)
2. The enemy (Matthew 13:39)
3. The devil (John 13:2)
4. Satan (Acts 5:3)
5. Your adversary (1 Peter 5:8)
6. Prince of the powers of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
7. God of this world (II Corinthians 4:4)
8. Beelzebub-Chief of the devils (Luke 11:15)
9. The evil one (Matthew 5:37)
10. Lucifer, son of the morning (Isaiah 14:12)

Discernment in Prayer, Impressions, Voices, Prophecies, Etc.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S IMPRESSIONS LEAD YOU INTO ALL TRUTH.
GOD DOES NOT DRIVE, BUT LEADS HIS CHILDREN. (Psalm 23:2,3;
John 10:3)

Impressions from other sources are generally loud, clamorous, forceful and seek to drown out the Spirit's voice.

JESUS ALWAYS SPEAKS QUIETLY, WITH TENDERNESS, SOMETIMES STRONG WITH AUTHORITY BUT PEACEFULLY. IMPRESSIONS FROM ABOVE ALWAYS GIVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO TEST THEIR GENUINENESS. (1 John 4:1-3)

The enemy talks loudly, boisterously; rushing, overwhelming at times even your own thoughts and understanding and tries to block the Holy Spirit's voice or direction. The thoughts or impressions from below are in a hurry, fearing detection and press for immediate decisions.

IMPRESSIONS FROM GOD, WHILE THEY COME GENTLY AND QUIETLY, GROW STRONGER AS YOU PRAY AND WAIT UPON GOD. THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS, GUIDES, REVEALS AND GLORIFIES GOD, AND BRINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE THE WORD. (John 16:13-15)

If the impressions come from the enemy, the more you wait upon God and pray, the weaker they become.

IMPRESSIONS FROM ABOVE WELCOME THE LIGHT AND ARE NOT AFRAID OF BEING TESTED IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORD. (John 8:12; II Corinthians 4:6)

The impressions from the enemy shrink back from the light, are afraid of tests by the Word, and do not like to be questioned.

IMPRESSIONS FROM ABOVE ARE FOLLOWED BY A SWEET PEACE AND REST AND CONSCIOUSNESS THAT THEY ARE RIGHT. (Exodus 33:14; Isaiah 26:3; John 16:33)

Those from below are attended by perplexity, confusions and a feeling that something is wrong. They rob us of our peace and rest, and create uneasiness within.

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TEST OF PROPHECY BY THE SCRIPTURE - Deuteronomy 18:21,22.

TRUE PROPHECY SPEAKETH UNTO MEN TO EDIFICATION, EXHORTATION AND COMFORT (BUILD UP, STIR UP, CHEER UP) 1 Corinthians 14:3

TRUE PROPHECY EDIFIES THE CHURCH - 1 Corinthians 14:4.

THE VOICE OF THE LORD SPEAKS IN THE EAR - Isaiah 30:21.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SPEAKS - John 16:13.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Corinthians 3:17b)

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:36)

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

"Stand last therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1)