

# **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST JESUS**

*The Overcoming Life*

By

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All verses unless otherwise quoted are drawn from the New King James Version (NKJV) and the International Standard Version (ISV). All Bible verses are italicized.

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## Who is Jesus?

### Jesus is God, the Father

The Lord Jesus identified himself as the Father.

*Philip told him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that will satisfy us."*

*"Have **I** been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know **me**?" Jesus asked him. "The person who has seen me has seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (John 14.8-9).*

In other words, *"I, the Father, have been with you all this time, and you still do not know me?"*

Jesus is the LORD God. The name of the LORD God, as Son of Man, is Jesus. God as Son of man is not his full glory, but God as Father is in his full glory.

The Lord God is omnipresent. He can be in different places at the same time and he can take any form. He God, the Father, rebirth himself, as son of man. As son of Man, he was in lower glory. He had to depend on himself in Heaven, as Father God, to work on the earth. He prayed to himself. God as son of Man, prayed to other self, God the Father. As Father, he is greater than as son of Man (the unglorified Jesus).

There is just one God, in 2 different strengths and forms. He issued out of the Father and he went back to the Father (to being Father).

The Lord continuously identified himself as the Father.

*You will look for me but will not find me. And where I am, you cannot come" (John 7.34).* He was on earth yet present in heaven. In other words, "I am in Heaven, and you cannot come there"

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, (John 14.26)*

*When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, (John 15.26)*

*so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give it to you (John 15.16)*

*If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it" (john14.14)*

*I and the Father are one" (John 10.30)*

Jesus is God, the Father, who came down to the earth to redeem us to himself. Jesus is not another person who received the Spirit of God. On the day of the Lord Jesus' water baptism, the Father, baptized himself as Son of Man with the Holy Spirit. He was present in heaven in all his (as Father) and present on earth (Jesus), in lower glory. His very person in heaven did all the works through his very person on earth. The glorified Jesus (Father) also baptizes his disciples with the Holy Spirit and power.

There is just one true God and Jesus is the name of the LORD God (the only name given among men) by which we can be saved. Jesus is the only way to the Father. There is no other way (John 14.4-7). The only way to God as Father is through God as Jesus.

He who believes in him will do the same works that he did and even greater because he is in glory (he is Father) (John 14.12). As Father, he is in his full capacity as God.

**As the Father gives life, so too does the Son:**

*Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to those he chooses (John 5.21)*

**The Father and the Son shares the same glory;**

*So now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world existed (John 17.5)*

**The father and the Son share everything;**

*All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine, and I have been glorified through them (John 17.10)*

**The Father and the Son share the same honor:**

*so that everyone may honor the Son as they honor the Father (John 5.23)*

**Both the Father and the Son renders Judgement:**

*The Father judges no one, but has given all authority to judge to the Son (John 5.22).  
I can do nothing on my own accord. I judge according to what I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me (John 5:30)*

**The Father and Son are trustworthy:**

*Believe in God, believe also in me (John 14.1)*

**The Father and Son are worshipped:**

*And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Luke 24.52)  
God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4.24)*

**Baptism is done in the “Name”, and not in the “Names”:**

*Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28.19).*

The “name” is identified to God. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is done in just one name because it is just one person. Baptism is done in the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

The Lord God in heaven is Father (in his full glory). The Lord God on the earth is Jesus, (in lower glory). After the resurrection, Jesus went back to glory. He went back to heaven and sat on his throne as Father.

## **Jesus is the Savior of the world**

*For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3.16)*

The name Jesus means "God saves". God does not want anyone to perish, but many are perishing in sickness, poverty, death, sin, and demon possession, Man is not supposed to perish anymore because God's kingdom is on the earth. God's kingdom is healing, health, life, freedom, righteousness, provision.

*People won't be saying, 'Look! Here it is!' or 'There it is!' because now the kingdom of God is among you (Luke 17.21)*

*But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you (Mat 12.28)*

*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom 14.17)*

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Mat 6.33)*

God does not want us saved only from sin. He wants us saved from sickness. He does not want us saved only from the second death (death of the soul) but he wants us saved from the first death (death of the body) in this life.

Lazarus was dead. Jesus told Martha (Lazarus' sister), "*Your brother will rise again*"

Martha, could not understand what Jesus said, and she replied, "*I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.*"

But Jesus corrected her saying,

*"I am the resurrection and the life. The person who believes in me, even though he dies, will live. Indeed, everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?" (John 11.23-26)*

Jesus was not talking about the resurrection on the last day as Martha believed. He was talking of "here and now".

Jesus is “the resurrection” to the dead. In this life, he raises those who are dead in body, like Lazarus. On the day of resurrection, he will raise all those who have died in body, whose names are in the book of life.

Jesus is the eternal life to all. In this life, he gives eternal life to the living on the earth. Whosoever believes in him, will never die in body. By faith, he can live till Jesus returns to give him a perfect body. On the day of resurrection, he will give eternal life to those who will rise again, whose names are in the book of life.

*Everything is possible for the person who believes!" (Mark 9.23)*

*All things are possible for God (Mark 10.27)*

If you believe in God, you will never die. Your body will keep renewing itself till Jesus comes back. Adam lived for almost 1000years. Jesus has already paid the price of sin. Because of Jesus, we can live in body till his return if we believe. All things are possible to he who believes. If death is defeated, what then is sickness?

In Christ, Man can dominate all things, even nature.

*Then he got up, rebuked the wind, and told the sea, "Calm down! Be still!" Then the wind stopped blowing, and there was a great calm. He asked them, "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith yet?" (Mark 4.39-40)*

If we believe in him, we can control nature, walk on water, move a mountain.

*I tell you with certainty, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you (Mat 17.20)*

If we believe in God, the devils will submit to us,

*The seventy disciples came back and joyously reported, "Lord, even the demons are submitting to us in your name!" (Luke 10.17)*

Jesus is the Savior of the world. Our solution does not lie with the government, doctors, storm chasers. Jesus is the solution to all the world's problem if we believe.



On the last day, God will punish sinners. Those who call now on the name of the Lord will be saved from sin and its power over their lives and save their souls on the last day. Let us repent and believe in him to restore us.

The kingdom of God is here on the earth.

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the LORD God. He manifests in diverse forms: Breath (John 20.22; Genesis 2.7), wind (John 3.8; Acts 2.2), water (John 4.10; John 7.37-38), oil & fire (Luke 4.18; Act 2.3).

God is full of Wisdom, understanding, and power. He is the truth (Isaiah 11.2). He is Holy (Rom 1.4). He is graceful (Heb 10.29). He is life (Rom 8.2). He is glorious (1 Peter 4.14).

A person can be identified by his name or his spirit. We could say, “our beloved Miriam is gone” or “the spirit of our beloved Miriam is gone”. So, we could also say, the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit of the Lord, or the LORD God.

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5.3-4). He is the spirit of the Father and/or the Spirit of the glorified Son. The glorified Son is Father. The Spirit of the Father resided in the Lord Jesus on the earth. The Spirit of the glorified son (Father) resides in his disciples. The spirit of the Lord Jesus, in glory, is the Father.

The Lord Jesus identified himself with “the coming Holy Spirit”. He promised to come back to them and continue teaching them even after his departure. They will know him because he will be in them as the Holy Spirit. He will not leave them Orphans because he is coming back, as the Holy Spirit, to help them.

*I have said these things to you in figurative language. The time is coming when I (as the Holy Spirit) will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly about the Father (John 16.25)*

*I will ask the Father to give you another Helper, to be with you always.*

*He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. But you recognize him, because he lives with you and will be in you (John 14.16-17)*

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the glorified LORD Jesus. The spirit of the glorified LORD Jesus is the Spirit of the Father. They are one. The LORD Jesus went back to be Father (glory). He issued out of the Father and he went back to him. He would issue out again from the Father and come back to them as the Holy Spirit.

Any sin against the LORD as Son of man (his humanity), can be forgiven but no sin against him as the Holy Spirit will be forgiven. In his humanity, he is the Son of Man but in glory, he is the Father (Matthew 12.31-32).

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth (John 14.17). The LORD Jesus is called the truth (John 14.6).

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of life (Romans 8.2, 10). The LORD Jesus is called the life (John 14.6).

The Holy Spirit is called the living waters and the LORD Jesus is the source of the living waters (John 4.10-14).

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8.26). The LORD Jesus intercedes for us (Romans 8.34).

The Holy Spirit is called the teacher (John 14.26). The LORD Jesus is called the only teacher (Mathew 23.10; John 16.25).

The Lord Jesus is continuing his work on the earth through his Holy Spirit in the disciples.

## **The Natural Life vs the Life of Christ**

### **The Natural Life**

In the natural life, it is normal to eat, sleep, walk, hear, see, blink the eyes, etc. It is normal to think, use the hands and smell, etc. The natural man can sing, dance, make music, learn, and make things. The natural life enables and strengthens us to do these things. Once there is natural life, the body functions accordingly.

All mankind is in the first Adam. All mankind has knowledge of good and evil (the conscience). The natural man has his own heart or character. He is arrogant, self-reliant, seeks self-glorification or exaltation, unrepentant, unteachable, stubborn, rebellious, ambitious, insensitive, untruthful, and uncaring etc. It is normal for the natural man to behave in a sinful way. In the natural life, no one can attain perfect holiness, no matter the level of righteous works.

In the natural life, it is normal to try to live holy by self-efforts. We program ourselves to pray, fast, bible study, church attendance, but the natural life is powerless to purify the heart. In the natural life, it is normal to love riches and luxurious life and judge it acceptable if we gave away some insignificant portion to the poor. It is normal to promote selfish ambition even in God's field. It is normal to ignore the inner selfish desires and ungodly thoughts. It is normal to speak of God's grace but trust in oneself to do it right.

The heart of man (not the physical heart) is his spirit. A man's heart (spirit) is known by his attitude or character (fruit). God dwells in our hearts, (our spirits). Only the humble can see the true state of their hearts and repent.

A man can be described by the state of his spirit (heart).

Pharaoh's heart was stubborn, or Pharaoh was a stubborn man (Ex 7.13).

The Pharisees' hearts were hard hearted, or the Pharisees were hard hearted men (Mark 3.5)

The Lord Jesus is gentle and humble at heart, or the Lord Jesus is a gentle and humble spirit (Mathew 11.29).

God found in David, a man after his very own heart. David was humble and obedient.

We do not worship God by going to "church" (John 4.24). We do not worship by singing worship songs. We worship God in Spirit and truth. We worship God when our spirits or hearts are after his own heart. Not all men can worship God even if they want to. We worship God when we are born of spirit. To be born of spirit (to take after his spirit), is the deepest way to reverence God. An obedient and submissive heart is better than sacrifice (anything you would give away to God). Saul was rejected by God because of his arrogant heart (1 Samuel 15.22-23). A heart that is not right cannot worship God. How much does your spirit reflect the image of Christ? One son, Jesus, died so that many sons could be brought to glory. One son was perfected so that other sons could be formed after the pattern of the first. This is the work and purpose of God.

The natural life cannot do the will of God. It cannot supply the necessary strength to do the will of God neither does it have the heart or right attitude to do the will of God. Any attempt to serve God in the natural life will fail or worst still, end up with fulfilling the will of the devil or self.

The law of sin and death operates in the natural life. The natural man has the tendency to sin. Anyone who sins is a slave of sin (John 8.34). The reward of sin is death. The end of the natural man is death because he is sinful.

*For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but I cannot carry it out.*

*For I don't do the good I want to do, but instead do the evil that I don't want to do.*

*But if I do what I don't want to do, I am no longer the one who is doing it, but it is the sin that is living in me.*

*So I find this to be a principle: when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me (Romans 7.18-21)*

The law of God is good, but none was found perfect by obedience to the law because none could obey the complete law.

The Lord Jesus gave a new commandment:

*I am giving you a new commandment to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another (John 13.34)*

We become perfect in uprightness if we obey this commandment. Yet, in the natural life, no man can ever obey this commandment. The law of Christ is spiritual. Carnal mind can not even discern its depth. Adultery is of the heart, unjustified anger is murder, you can give away all your goods to the poor and yet be without love, etc. The physical law cannot reach such depth, only a spiritual law.

**You need heavenly life to satisfy the demands of God. Jesus is the life from Heaven for all men. Unlike the natural life of sin, the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is perfect and powerful to do the will of God.**

### **The Life of Christ Jesus**

As natural life is to our body, so is the spiritual life of Jesus Christ to our spirits. As easy as we do physical things in the natural life, so it is easy to do all things (both spiritual and physical) in the spirit of Christ. As real and evident is the natural life, so real and evident is the spiritual life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is the vine. We are branches. Plucked to him, we receive his life and bear fruit. Detached from him, we have no life and wither away.

The LORD Jesus is the bread from heaven that gives life to men (john 6.48-51). His flesh is meat, and his blood is drink. His flesh and blood are spiritually given to men for salvation (John 6.53-58).

Christ Jesus on the eve of the night of his betrayal, at supper, *took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it in pieces, and handed it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is*

*given for you. Keep on doing this in memory of me" (Luke 22.19). The old and new Passover feasts are all for remembrance. Bread and wine is not the actual blood and body of the Lord Jesus. They are only symbolical.*

*It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh profits nothing (John 6.63)*

### **Plucked to the Vine, we receive the living word:**

Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4.3). The Lord Jesus is the living word (John 1.1). He feeds our spirits with himself. As food is to the body, so is the word of God to the spirit. Plucked to him, the word of God comes alive. The Bible is the written word of God. On its own it is lifeless and not very profitable but in the hands of someone who is in the spirit of Christ, the words come alive. It is like the words rip off the Bible and pierce and attach itself in the heart. As eating is real to the body, so is the word of God, when eaten, real to the spirit. Rigorous Bible study will not get you God's word. Reading all kinds of Christian literature will not give you God's word, instead it may expose you to error. Do not be lost in the Bible. The written text kills but the spirit gives life (2 Cor 3.6).

You need Jesus Christ, the living word. God is spirit. We are spirits. You need to be grafted in to him. Stop searching in the wrong places. Earnestly seek him. God feeds his children everyday with His son, the living Bread from heaven.

*I am the vine, you are the branches, whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty, for cut off from me you can do nothing (John 13.5).*

### **Plucked in Him, we receive power to do all things:**

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Phil 4.13)*

The hard road to heaven is for the weak, not the strong. The weak man knows he is weak (he acknowledges the weakness of his natural strength). He knows the difficulties

and challenges of the Christian walk. He also knows that on his own, he can do nothing. The weak cleaves to Jesus firmly for the fear of falling away. The weak, knowing his human weakness, abides in Christ in all humility and obedience. The weak knows how weak and useless his natural strength is to heavenly demands. He knows deep in his heart, that Jesus is the only life power to do all that God wants. It is the weak man that inherits the kingdom of God because only the weak receive divine strength to do God' will. Those who are strong (they have faith in and rely on their natural strength) will never inherit the kingdom of God because they will never satisfactorily do the will of God. In our weakness, God's power is perfect.

Our life is drawn from the life of Christ. Without Christ, there is no life nor power.

*I no longer live, but the Messiah lives in me, and the life that I am now living in this body I live by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Gal. 2.20).*

Abide in Christ and you will receive life and strength. Spiritual life does not come by abiding in a pastor, "a church", an individual, bible study, church activities. Plucked into Christ, it becomes spiritually easy to discern God's will, do God's will, pray according to God's will. Plucked in Christ produces a deeper loss of interest in the world or the things of the world, and stronger appetite for the things of heaven.

God does not want any man to meet his law by natural strength as it was in the old covenant. He wants all men to receive Christ and receive divine strength to meet divine tasks and bear fruit.

Our enemy the devil wants to devour all who want to follow Christ. The earth, our wilderness, is full of trials and temptations. If our flesh is alive, then the temptations are effective to pull us down. Natural life feeds the flesh. Self-strength cannot control the flesh. Only the power of the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus can give victory over all the trials of this life (Romans 8.13). False christs and false prophets abound in this time, and only the Holy Spirit can enable us to discern rightly.



*I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8.12)*

There is no condemnation for those who 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 sets them free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8.1-2). The righteous requirement of the Law of God can be fulfilled only in those who live in the spirit of Christ Jesus (Romans 8.4)

It is a choice. One must choose between living on the earth from his natural life or from the life of Christ which is only possible by faith in him. We can look to him to teach us all things. We can learn how to be a parent or spouse. We can learn how to love all people, even our enemies. We can learn to trust him. We look to him to perfect our faith. We can believe that in total submission to him, we will inherit the kingdom of God. We look to him to enable us to do the works he did, and even greater works. In him, we can be content with little. In him, we can endure all hardship without being bitter. In him, we find joy and freedom. Joy in him and not in the things of the flesh and the world. Freedom from the demands of the flesh and sin. We just need to look to him for power to do all things and his power will be present to help.

Life or power is not received from church attendance, or from a preacher, or from bible study, or prayer and fasting. These things are profitable, but they do not supply power to do God's will. Spiritual power comes only from the life of Christ by faith. In him, the other things (prayers, bible study, etc.) become effective tools.

Self-effort only leads to dryness and weariness. Weariness may leave you worse off than the sinful state you were in before you believed God. Dryness will make every spiritual task burdensome and unpleasant. If there is no water of life, spiritual dryness is imminent. If you are dry, do not look for water by attending church programs, fasting and reading Christian books or Bible (Greek or English). These will not help. All you need is to look for the Vine of life and get grafted in.

**To be grafted in Vine of Life**

Jesus is the true vine (John 15.1-5). We are branches. We need his life to bear fruits (godly nature and works). Without him, we can do nothing no matter the efforts. The WAY (Jesus) that leads to the kingdom of heaven is hard and the gate is narrow.

*Keep on struggling to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you that many people will try to enter, but won't be able to do so (Luke 13.24).*

Many do not know the life in Christ Jesus because they are still to gain entrance into him. Many know about him, many have heard about him, many will love to be with him, but only a few will qualify. How do you enter Christ?

**1. Repentance:** Repentance prepares our hearts to receive him. We need to deny the sinful way of life (Greed, sexual immorality, pride, idolatry, sorcery, murder). Greed is stealing, cheating, keeping more stuff than you need, refusing to share, sharing only an insignificant portion of your wealth, desiring to get rich, lack of contentment. It is very difficult for the rich man to enter the kingdom of God because the rich man cannot let go of his wealth. Repentance must be thorough and fruitful.

**2. Submit:** You must become a child (Luke 18.17). A childlike heart or spirit is difficult to become. Children do not know self-confidence nor are they self-reliant. They are teachable. They cleave to their parents in trust. The LORD leads only children. Unless, you be converted and become a child, you will never enter the kingdom of God. If you try to do the spiritual walk by self efforts, you will fail. You know nothing and can do nothing. Look to him as your teacher, Shepherd, and master. When you look at him like that, without the slightest self-reliance, he will make himself found. Pray to God to help you become a child.

**3. Give it all up:** You must give up all you own (Luke 12.33). You must give up all your treasures to buy this one treasure. The kingdom of God is like a merchant who saw a pearl of great value and sold all his other pearls to buy this one valuable pearl (Mat 13.45-46). The foolish virgins took their lamps but did not buy oil and lost the bridegroom (Mat 25.30). The rich man refused to give up his wealth and lost Jesus (Mat 19.21-23).

*In the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions (Luke 14.33)*

**4. Self-denial:** You must deny your life, pleasures, personal goals and ambitions, etc. Be ready to lay down your life even in the face of death.

*If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow me continually (Mat 16.24)*

You must love God more than any man. Love God first, and love man second.

*If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, as well as his own life, he can't be my disciple (Luke 14.26)*

The disciples had met these conditions and were qualified to follow him

*"Look!" Peter replied. "We have left everything and followed you. So what will we get? (Mat 19.27).*

It is very hard for the rich to enter the narrow gate. It is very hard for those who love their lives to enter the narrow gate. It is very hard for the proud and all knowing to enter the narrow gate. They have heard about him, some of them preach the scriptures like the pharisees did. They love going with Jesus, but they will not enter him.

## Are You Religious or Spiritual?

The religious person belongs to a “church”. The spiritual Christian belongs to the church.

A “church” belongs to an individual or group of people and it is often named after the owner (s) e.g. Jake Trovers Ministry.

The church belongs to Christ Jesus and it does not bear the name of any man.

“Church” membership is primarily based on attendance and contributions.

Membership in the church of Christ is based on repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.

“Church” collects tithes.

The church of Christ does not collect tithes, rather they sell their belongings and distribute as each person needs.

*They made it their practice to sell their possessions and goods and to distribute the proceeds to anyone who was in need (Acts 2.45)*

*Now all the believers were one in heart and soul, and nobody called any of his possessions his own. Instead, they shared everything they owned (Acts 4.32)*

The head of a “church” is called by titles; pastor, reverend, papa, Daddy, Mommy, Rabbi, Master, Founder, etc.

The church of Christ has only one head, Christ. In the church of Christ, none is exalted above the other. They are all brothers, submitted to Christ. They do not bear titles.

*But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' because you have only one teacher, and all of you are brothers.*

*And don't call anyone on earth 'Father,' because you have only one Father, the one in heaven.*

*Nor are you to be called 'Teachers,' because you have only one teacher, the Messiah!*

*The person who is greatest among you must be your servant (Mat. 23.8-11)*

The religious person “worship” God by their commitment to “church” duties, rules and code of conduct. They submit to the head of the “church” and abide in the “church”.

The spiritual Christian worship God by obedience to the Lord, love and faith. The spiritual Christian worships God in spirit and truth.

*God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4.24)*

The religious person works out his righteousness by self-strength.

The spiritual Christian is perfected in holiness by power of life in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

The religious person, just like the pharisees, loves wealth (Luke 16.14). His heart is on money. He rejects the gospel of Christ, which demands giving away one’s wealth for heavenly purses.

The spiritual Christian is content and lives on the basic needs of life. His heart is on heaven.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

*But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Mathew 6.19-21)*

*Sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor. Make yourselves wallets that don't wear out—a dependable treasure in heaven, where no thief can get close and no moth can destroy anything (Luke 12.33)*

The religious person is unrepentant and boasts of his self-righteousness (Luke 18.10-14).

The spiritual Christian does not justify or make excuses for his wrongs. He acknowledges the weakness of his human nature and relies on the power of the life of Christ to bring him to perfection.

The religious person loves to be greeted with respect and have people call him by titles (Mat 23.8-9). He loves the place of distinction and best seats at “church” or feasts. He loves sitting at the front row or facing the congregation (Mat 23.6).

The spiritual Christian loves to be at the same level with his brothers. He even prefers to be their servant, by letting them have the honor.

*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant (Mat. 23.11)*

The religious person looks outwardly to be just and upright but inwardly, he is full of hypocrisy, lawlessness, greed, and extortion. He fights over property. He loves feasting. He is jealous. He neglects the spiritual issue of brotherly love. He collects money from the poor and widows. He lives with big purses while his fellow “church” members suffer in poverty and hardship.

The spiritual Christian gives to the poor and widows (Gal.2.10) and he considers the needs of others. He does not store up.

*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others (Phil 2.4)*

The religious man loves to read and memorize scriptures, fast and pray to be seen by men. If he does any charitable work, he will publicize it.

The spiritual Christian reads the scripture, fasts and prays as a devotion to God; to know him, to be strengthened by him, and draw closer to him.

The religious man looks righteous, but he is not in Christ nor does he have His Spirit. He is yet to submit to Christ. He has made himself head of other people and he submits to another man as head.

The spiritual Christian is righteous, and he is in Christ because he has submitted to him as head. He does not submit to anybody as head, except Christ, nor does he allow anyone submit to him as head.

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

### Filled with the Holy Spirit

The question, "Have you been baptized with the Holy Ghost?" also means, "Have you been filled with Holy Ghost?" The outcome of Pentecost was, "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them that ability*" (Acts 2.4).

Before Pentecost, there were only a few people who were filled with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb (Luke 1.15). Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1.41). Zachariah was filled with the Holy Ghost (Luke 1.66-67). Saul was filled with the Holy Ghost (1 Samuel 10.9-10). David, Samuel, Samson, and the prophets of the old were filled with the Holy Spirit. In the Old covenant, God filled with his Holy Spirit, people in the office of the king and prophet. In the new covenant, God's infilling is for his disciples (Mat 28.19).

To be filled with the Holy Spirit also mean to be anointed.

*"You received from him an anointing, and it remains in you, so you do not need someone to teach you. His anointing teaches you all things, it speaks the truth and does not lie to you; so remain in him, and keep what he has taught you" (1 John 2.27).*

*"But you have the anointing from the Holy One, so that all of you have true wisdom" (1 John 2.20).*

The anointing is the spirit of the Lord Jesus, the anointed One. The Holy Spirit is our anointing. His presence in us is the anointing. In 1 John 2.27, the anointing is referred to as "him"; *so remain in him, and keep what he has taught you.*

The anointing is also the power of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit, is to be filled with power, because the Holy Spirit comes with his power. A person filled with the Holy Spirit is filled with the Holy Spirit and power.

The power of God is not a separate tangible force. On Pentecost, the disciples did not receive two baptisms. They did not first receive the Holy Spirit and then power afterwards. They received one baptism. They received the Holy Spirit, and as a result, received his power. Power does not operate by itself. The power is of the Holy ghost. Those who receive him, receive his power. He gave them power to speak in unknown tongues, and to preach with boldness. The Lord Jesus is the one who baptizes in the Holy Ghost and power (Mat 3.11). The Holy Ghost and his power are inseparable. When a person receives the infilling of the Holy Ghost, he receives power. A person cannot receive power apart from the Holy Ghost. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit have the power to do all things. The disciples vary in kingdom work performance not because they did not receive the same measure of infilling of the Holy Spirit, rather because they vary in their measure faith and grace. The Holy Spirit is our power to do all things.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit may come without the obvious signs of Pentecost such as the tongues of fire and the wind. When it comes, the inner life is transformed. The eyes and ears of the human spirit are open, and the heart is quickened to understand. The mind is gradually renewed as truth is received in the spirit.

On the day of the His resurrection, the LORD Jesus breathed on his disciples and they received the Holy Spirit in some measure (John 20.22). They had to wait to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and power. They received the fullness of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost after their Lord was glorified. The Holy Spirit is poured out in some measure as the seal of God on his chosen ones. The Holy Spirit will guide the elect, to the second encounter (his full presence), which does not come casually.

Laying of hands is not the only way of receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The first gentile Christians became spirit filled not by laying of hands (Acts 10.44-48). Infilling can occur more than once (Acts 4.29-31).



The Holy Spirit worked in the creation of the earth (Gen 1.1-2). He is still working in the recreation of man. The Holy Spirit is on earth, giving birth to a new kind of man (a heavenly man) through repentance (John 16.8) and sanctification. He will renew our bodies on the day of resurrection (Rom 8.11).

### **The Glorified Jesus**

We can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit because Jesus is glorified. The Father (the glorified Jesus) is the one who fills us with his Holy Spirit and power. Anyone who looks up to him will never thirst again because out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters welling up to eternal life. He went back to be Father to send us the Holy Spirit. The LORD Jesus glorified means he is in his glory. His glory is his throne, full power and authority as Father. The LORD Jesus, as Son of Man, had earthly limitations, but as the Holy Spirit, he is in full power.

### **What do I do get filled with the Holy Spirit?**

To receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, one must be grafted into the Vine. To belong to God (to be his disciple), we need to believe in Christ. To believe is to:

Repent of our sins

Submit to the Lord

Give up all we own

Embrace Self-denial

Only the Lord can guide us to himself. We need to pray to him earnestly to help us enter the narrow gate.

### **Why must we be filled?**

**To bear the nature of the LORD Jesus:**

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is the power to live holy. Holiness cannot be perfect in human effort. The old man (old Spirit) was obligated to live to satisfy the human nature (Galatians 5.19-21), but in Christ, our obligations to the flesh ends. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the old nature (the old spirit) is put away and the new nature of Christ is put on. The Holy Spirit helps us to be born of Spirit (to become like Christ in nature). One who is born of Spirit (one who has the nature of Christ) is dead to sin. Until we become born of water and of the Spirit, we cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven (John 3.4). It takes a much deeper commitment to be born of spirit. To be born of spirit does not mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. To be born of spirit means to be like Christ in Spirit (character and heart)

### **To do kingdom work:**

Without the Holy Spirit and his power, we cannot do any divine work. It is the Father in the Lord Jesus who was doing the work. It is the Lord Jesus in us who is doing the work. On our own we can do nothing. Without him, we cannot heal the sick, cast out devils, raise the dead or teach his word.

### **Our only guarantee of meeting the bridegroom:**

The fullness of the Holy Spirit is the only assurance that we will qualify for the wedding feast (Mathew 25.1-13).

*At that time, the kingdom from heaven will be comparable to ten bridesmaids who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were foolish, and five were wise, because when the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn't take any oil with them. But the wise ones took flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the groom was late, all of them became sleepy and lay down. But at midnight there came a shout: 'The groom is here! Come out to meet him!' Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready. But the foolish ones told the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out!' But the wise ones replied, 'No! There will never be enough for us and for you. You'd better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves. While they were away buying it, the groom arrived. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was closed. Later the other bridesmaids arrived and said, 'Lord,*

*lord, open up for us!' But he replied, 'I tell you with certainty, I don't know you!' So keep on watching, because you don't know the day or the hour."*

The bridesmaid needed lit lamps to be meet the bridegroom. Lamps need oil to give light. The foolish ones took their lamps with no oil, but the wise ones took their lamps with oil. The bridesmaid are people who believe in Jesus and the heavenly kingdom. They all believe in the wedding feast. The five foolish bridesmaids are people who do not care to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The five wise bridesmaids are people who have paid the cost and have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The foolish bridesmaid did not care to get oil. They were not ready to buy oil. They were sure they will be ready for the bridegroom even without the oil.

The oil is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. He is our helper. He sanctifies and empowers us to subdue the flesh and withstand the wiles of the enemy. He makes us bear fruit to eternal life. Without him, we will never be ready for the groom. He comes for a bride without spot or blemish.

We must not be foolish but pay the cost for the fullness of the Holy Spirit (not with money). We must not assume that repentance is enough to make us fit. Once the groom arrives, it will be late to make changes. Now is the time to fix your eyes on getting the oil. He fills us when our hearts are ready and emptied of much spiritual junk.

## **False Christs and False Prophets**

*Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy with the breath of his mouth, rendering him powerless by the manifestation of his coming.*

*The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the power of Satan. He will use every kind of power, including miraculous signs, lying wonders, and every type of evil to deceive those who are dying, those who refused to love the truth that would save them.*

*That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Th 2.8-12)*

Before the return of Christ Jesus, the power of Satan would manifest fully. He would perform miraculous signs, lying wonders and every type of power and evil to deceive people.

We are in those days. False christs and false prophets did abound in the last generation (AD1900s). They performed miraculous signs and gave fulfilling prophecies. Many of them are gone but they have behind a multiplication of false teachers after their kind.

Kathryn Kulman, Kenneth E Hagin, Oral Roberts, and many others, performed provable and documented miracles, but they were also known for their greed and love of fame. They left behind millions of books and millions of followers.

The Lord Jesus spoke of their coming.

*At that time, if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!', don't believe it, because false messiahs and false prophets will appear and display great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Mat 24.23-24)*

The word "messiah" also refers to "christ". Messiah means leader. Christ means anointed one. In the OT, God anointed people for the leadership office. Saul and David

were anointed to rule Israel. So, the “anointed one” can also mean the leader. The Jews awaited their messiah (the one ordained by God to lead his people). The long-awaited messiah was Jesus Christ.

In the last days, many false messiahs (false leaders or false anointed ones) and false prophets would arise. In the power of Satan, they would perform miraculous signs and wonders, and they would deceive many, except for the elect whom God has kept for himself.

It is from Christianity that these false christs and false prophets emerged. The other religions in the world scarcely perform miraculous signs. From the last generation in the 1900s till today, we see many false leaders and prophets. With signs and wonders, they have deceived many to follow them. Do not be quick to go anywhere if someone tells you, “come, let us go and see this powerful “man of God”.

Today, there is rapid growth in the “Christian” world in America, Europe, and Africa and other parts of the world. There is no other time than this that fulfills the words of Christ, “with signs and wonders, they shall deceive many except for the elect”. The elect are only a few people among many. Only a few people, today, are truly followers of Jesus.

Do not be deceived by their knowledge of the scriptures. Do not be deceived by their gentle and innocent look. Do not be deceived by the signs and wonders they perform or lying wonders they claim to perform.

Watch out for their fruit.

*Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are savage wolves. You will know them by their fruit (Mat 7.15-16)*

They look religious, humble, and gentle. They speak the word of God (they know the scriptures). They perform signs and wonders. Yet, they are of Satan.

Love the truth and watch out for their fruit.

The fruit of a man who does not know God is greed, selfish ambition and fame, sexual immorality. Though there are others, these are the main attributes. If a leader has one or more of these qualities, then he is false. Do not follow him nor go near him.

### **Greed:**

*Now there were false prophets among the people, just as there also will be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

*Many people will follow their immoral ways, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned.*

*In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. The ancient verdict against them is still in force, and their destruction is not delayed (2 Pe 2.1-3)*

There are many kinds of greed (Luke 12.15). We must stay away from every kind of greed. Greed is:

Cheating

Stealing

Storing up

Refusal to share

Fighting over property

ignoring the poor

The desire to be rich

Lack of contentment

Giving away only an insignificant portion of your wealth

### **Self-ambition and glory:**

The desire to promote self. The desire to be seen. The false teachers proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition (Phil 1.17). Their hearts are not sincere.

### **Sexual Immorality:**

Unlawful and unhealthy sexual desire. Adultery, fornication, illegitimate divorce, homosexuality, masturbation, use of things and animals as sexual tools.

Be watchful. The way to the kingdom of Heaven is hard and the gate is narrow and there are few that find it.

A little yeast leavens the whole lump. A little error is enough to spoil the word of truth. A little but deadly wrong teaching leads many astray. Be careful of the yeast of the false leaders or false prophets. Before you listen to a preacher, first check his fruit. Outward looks cannot differentiate the true from the false.

Not every manifestation of power is of the Holy Spirit. Not every baptism is of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not slay people under his power when he fills or touches them. People are thrown to the floor by evil spirits. People possessed with evil spirits usually manifest on the floor when the devils are being cast out. Not every verbal sound from the mouth is the gift of tongues. (For better understanding of the gift of tongues, read my book "The Truth against Errors")

Other Books by Author

*The Way to the Kingdom of Heaven*

*The Books of Daniel and Revelation Unveiled*

*The Truth against Errors*

*True Riches*

*After the Earthly Life*

*False Teachers in the Church of God*

*Short Sermons*