

LEARNING TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

# *The Spirit Controlled Life*



SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ

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THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE

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# *Contents*

## Preface

1.	The Carnal Mind	9
2.	Battle Arena Emotions	15
3.	Resist the Devil	33
4.	Walk in the Spirit	47
5.	Living in the Spirit	55
6.	Crucify the Flesh	93
7.	Mind the Spirit's Things	114
8.	Renew the Mind	133
9.	Keys to Walk in the Spirit	153
10.	Be Led by the Spirit	163

# *Dedication*

This book is worshipfully dedicated to the Heavenly Father for His grace and mercy, the Lord Jesus Christ for His revelation of precious truths, and the Holy Spirit for His inspiration and guidance in writing this book

And

To all Precious and Beloved Brothers and Sisters who greatly desire to learn how to walk in the Spirit.

# *Acknowledgements*

I want to humbly express my deep thanks and profound gratitude, and acknowledge the sacrifices of labor and love of the following dear brothers and sisters who helped make this book a reality:

Amutha Arnasalam  
Johnny Lim

And to

Pastor Bernard Lee and Bartek Muszynski  
for their painstaking labors of love in editing this book.

# Preface

I once read an anonymous poem which goes like this:

*“My soul is like a barnyard duck  
Muddling in the barnyard muck,  
Fat and lazy with useless wings;  
But sometimes when the north-wind  
sings,  
And wild ducks fly overhead,  
It ponders something lost and dead,  
Then cocks a wary, bewildered eye  
And makes a feeble attempt to fly.  
It's quite content with the state it's in,  
But it's not the duck it might have been.”*

Many Christians are living in the barn yard when they could be soaring like an eagle. If it is your earnest desire to soar above the pettiness and insignificance of the barnyard muck, then the only way is to learn to walk in the Spirit.

Most Christians have struggles in their Christian life. Once in a while we would hear the scoffing remark of some unbeliever: *You're a Christian and you do this?* And you might lament before God and ask yourself, like other sincere

Christian believers do: *Why is it that I can't walk like Jesus? Why is it that I can't live victoriously in my Christian life?*

I have often heard the slogan *Walk in the Spirit*, and even preached on it myself many times. So some years ago, I began seriously to ask the Lord what it really means to walk in the Spirit. I cried out to God to teach me the mechanics of walking in the Spirit so that I could share it with the Body of Christ.

On September 13, 1991, out of His great love and mercy, the Lord Jesus finally revealed to me the truths I was seeking after a season of fasting and prayer. Ever since then, thousands of believers have been greatly encouraged, blessed, and challenged by this message. I trust that you too will be greatly blessed.

Humbly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sundar Selvaraj', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sundar Selvaraj  
July 2013





## CHAPTER 1

# *The Carnal Mind*

### **ROMANS 8:5-8**

*5 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

*6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

*7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be.*

*8 So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

When we begin our Christian life, the Christ-led life seems exciting, miraculous, and joyous on the one hand and yet far from a bed of roses on the other. Why is this so? Because there is a tendency, at moments, to slip from a Spirit-filled walk into a flesh-led carnal walk.

Our Christian life does not seem to be a continuous victory march. It is not like a rocket that lifts off from its base and keeps soaring higher and higher. Instead, it seems more like a roller-coaster, now going up and now going down, an altogether bumpy ride. High in the spirit one day and down in the ditch of sin the next day. You start wondering: *Is this what the Christ-life is supposed to be? Can I ever walk the Spirit-led life?*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

Consider this: the infant chick that just breaks out from the egg does not immediately take off to the air looking for food like its parent. It is small, covered with slime, and struggles to keep its eyes open. When its mother brings food for it, the baby bird hardly knows where exactly to point its eager beak. And when it attempts to move about, it can little better than stumbling and falling.

This chick, nevertheless, has all the potential of an adult bird-life with its full range of survival skills and traits. But, for now, having just come out of the egg, it is still a baby. But it has to begin to learn to overcome its inherent weaknesses. It has to learn to allow the real bird-life inside to take over its fragile life, little by little. Then one day, it finally becomes a full-fledged bird, fully developed and mature. Likewise, we receive the real Christ-life when we are first born again as a new believer (1 Pe 1:23; 1 Jn 3:9).

We need to learn how to allow the divine seed of the Christ-life inside us to break forth into a new spiritual life within, which will lead us into a victorious Spirit-filled walk. Our old sin-nature was crucified on the cross when the Lord Jesus Christ came into our lives. The old man with the Adamic SIN-NATURE was crucified and the new man with the CHRIST-NATURE came alive in us.

It is commonly known today that the HIV virus can be transmitted by blood transfusion. I once read a pathetic story in the newspaper of an incident that took place in USA in 1992. A young woman went to a dentist to have her troubling tooth extracted. The dentist was a HIV positive person but he hid the truth from the public, lest he had his license revoked.

## The Carnal Mind

Strange though it sounds, while performing a dental surgery on the woman, dentist's HIV infected blood from a small cut in his finger fell into the woman's mouth while performing a wisdom tooth extraction. After a week, when she went for a medical check-up, she was discovered to have AIDS. She had inherited the deadly disease from the dentist's blood.

When her blood received the infected blood, it too became infected with the HIV virus. Likewise, when we invite the Lord Jesus Christ into our lives, His blood not only cleanses us from all sin, but our blood receives the Christ DNA (Divine Nature) (2 Cor 5:17; 2 Pe 1:14).

The Christ-Seed that we receive at the moment of our new birth experience has been predestinated to grow into the New Man, conforming to the image and likeness of Christ (Rom 8:29). Growing in the likeness and image of Christ, we are someday to come into His stature (Eph 4:13).

Consider an egg. When it first comes out of a chicken, inside there is only fluid. But as it receives warmth and heat from the mother hen, the imageless liquid is gradually being transformed into the image and likeness of the chicken. Likewise, the Christ-seed in us is transformed into His likeness by the fire of the Holy Spirit, so we can walk as He walked (1 Jn 2:6).

## THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN

A carnal Christian is one who walks after the flesh and its lusts. The word *carnal* in Greek, *sarkikos* (sar-kee-kos') from the word *sarx* signifies:

## The Spirit Controlled Life

1. *having the nature of flesh, i.e. sensual, governed by human nature instead of by the Spirit of God* (1 Cor 3:13).
2. *the weaker element in a nature* (Rom 6:19; 8:3a)
3. *the unregenerate state of men* (Rom 7:5; 8:8-9)
4. *the seed of sin in man* (2 Pet 2:18; 1 Jn 2:16)
5. *the lower and temporary element in the Christian* (Gal 3:3; 6:8).

*Sarkikos describes the lusts, which have their own source in man's corrupt and fallen nature.* The man who is carnal allows the flesh to occupy a place in his spirit, which does not rightfully belong to it.

When the Lord Jesus comes into a person's life, the devil must vacate, and he vacates. The Lord Jesus then sits on the throne of man's spirit. The old Adamic 'SIN' is crucified and a new man—the Christ-life giving Spirit, the Christ nature—is born. But the strong man of the house—the devil—who was cast out when Christ Jesus came in, immediately seeks to come back through all kinds of schemes, plans, and deceptions (Matt 12:43-45).

Once, I was in South India for ministry and was walking by the rice fields one morning. I noticed that deep and big wells were dug to water the fields and a pump was used to get the water out. A well laid out water-route then brings water to the various parts of the fields. The opening at the entrance of the water-route was small so as to regulate the flow amount of the water.

A farmer would remove the stone blocking at entrance so that water could start flowing out. When more water was needed, the farmer widened the entrance so that

more water flowed. The wider he enlarged the entrance the greater the capacity of the water flow.

Likewise, Christ came into our life and removed the stone of blockage (Sin), so the water of life could start flowing. But there is a responsibility on our part to yield and surrender our spirit, soul, and body, so that the Christ-life can flow out in full capacity. If we do not yield nor surrender any part of our being, that unsundered area becomes the 'wild card' in the devil's hand to cause us to fall, become sensual, weak, unregenerate, and spiritually immature.

## EVIDENCES OF CARNALITY

What are the scriptural evidences that show of a person is carnal. The Bible says:

### **1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3**

*1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.*

*2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;*

*3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

These scriptures clearly identify the symptoms of a carnal Christian and they are:

1. *Lack of Spiritual Maturity* (v. 1)
2. *Envy, Strife, and Divisions* (v. 3)

## The Spirit Controlled Life

These symptoms of carnality clearly pinpoint to an unsundered will. The will or self, which is in total surrender to the will of God and to the Holy Spirit, will not indulge in the will of Satan nor yield its members to unrighteousness.

Let's contrast these symptoms with the Christ nature:

### **CARNAL**

Spiritual Immaturity

Envy

Strife

Divisions

### **CHRIST-NATURE**

Growing into His likeness (Eph 4:13)

Love (1 Cor 13:4)

Peace (2 Cor 13:11)

Unity (Phil 1:27; 2:2)

As shown above, we see that the person who is carnal is one who is not pressing on and making the necessary sacrifices to mature into Christ-likeness.

So, let us say like the apostle Paul *press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Phil 3:14), by putting away our carnal nature.

## CHAPTER 2

# *Battle Arena Emotions*

When a person is carnal, it is like he is placed in a boxing ring with the devil. Being carnal or spiritually immature, he is assailed constantly by feelings of sensuality and other raw human emotions. Emotions can either be positive—Christ-controlled, or negative—fleshly. Fleshly emotions are like the *Mimosa* plant, which is extremely sensitive to touch. The moment someone or something touches it, the leaves of the *Mimosa* fold back immediately on its stem.

I remember watching a boxing match between the legendary Muhammad Ali and his Japanese opponent Inoki a few decades ago. Inoki had a unique boxing style. He just lay there on the ground and executed his kicks. Ali, being a world champ, easily won the match. Likewise the believer who is carnal gets always entangled in this boxing arena, the realm of emotions. Punches from the devil are flung left, right, and center through all kinds of adverse circumstances.

The believer, like the outmatched boxer, goes down repeatedly under those heavy blows. Just as he attempts to get, in comes another blow, knocking him down to his face. Many Christians are like that: high up in the spirit

one day and down in the ditch of sin the next. It's a roller-coaster Christian life.

You are in the boxing ring. You are floored by a punch. What should you do? You get up and try to throw a punch. Instead you receive another blow and fall down again. You are trying to overcome the flesh. Though you succeeded the first time you succumb to it the next day. That's a roller coaster Christian life. Many Christians cry to God for help. If you do not want to be in the boxing ring receiving all the punches from the devil but want to throw back some good punches, then you must do something about it.

When we live as carnal Christians, our whole life is entangled in a web of raw emotions. Consider a spider weaving a web. God has greatly blessed this small tiny creature with great architectural wisdom. It first lays out a strong frame. Then threads are laid from the center outwards to the sides, like the spokes of a wheel. A spiral is then spun from the center towards the edges. Finally, it works its way inwards, producing a beautiful masterpiece.

Let's use this natural phenomenon of nature—the creation of a spider web—as the basis for deliberating on some deeper spiritual truth. Let's start with man, then the devil, and finally the Lord Jesus Christ, drawing parallels between each of their work to that of the spinning of the spider web.

In approaching God, man starts from the outside. The layout of the Tabernacle of Moses provides a clear picture of man's journey towards God. In the outer court, the high priest offers his sacrifices at the brazen altar. After washing himself up, he proceeds into the inner



Holy Place, where the table of showbread, altar of incense, and candlestick are kept. He then moves deeper into the sanctuary into the Most Holy Place, where he comes face to face with God's glory.

The devil, who is set on killing, stealing from, and destroying man (Jn 10:10), knows he cannot possess a truly blood-washed believer; so he works on the outside, targeting the emotions, whispering temptations and what not into the thoughts of man. When a believer gives in to such thoughts, the devil gets into their mind—and their very soul. Never relenting in his feverish scheming and tempting, the devil works his way into the spirit of man. Let me state here in no uncertain terms that it is impossible for the devil to possess the spirit of a Christian until and unless he commits the unpardonable sin.

When a preacher visited a young couple, the wife said to him: *We're new Christians, and although I'm saved I've lived a worldly life - swearing, partying, etc. The past keeps coming back to haunt me. It's destroying my peace of mind.* The pastor replied: *When something like that comes to mind, analyze it and recognize its evil source. Then with God's help, reject it and put it out of your life. Finally, replace it by filling your heart and mind with God's word.*

She took the advice and learned to control her thoughts. A few months later she testified that she was no longer held captive and defeated by her past anymore. What we think about and dwell upon is important. Our words and actions reflect our personal musings and meditation.

A vision of a certain minister of God I once read about clearly illustrates this truth. In it, the minister saw a

very attractive, God-fearing pastor's wife whom he knew. He also saw a small monkey-like demonic spirit sitting on her shoulders and whispering into her ears what appeared like thoughts to her. The spirit told her: *You are so beautiful, why are you wasting your time with this minister and congregation who do not recognize, honor, or appreciate you? Leave the ministry; go to Las Vegas or Hollywood where you can become a great star.* The pastor's wife, discerning this to be the devil's thoughts, rebuked the spirit and it fled (Jas 4:7).

But every day, the spirit would come and tempt her with those thoughts. After some time, this woman began to entertain those thoughts and liked them. When she began to desire those thoughts, the spirit got into her—through her mind. Her thoughts now controlled her. She began quarrelling with her godly husband. After some time of constant quarrelling she packed her bags and left him. She went to Hollywood and became famous.

In an X-ray type vision, the Lord showed the minister of God how the evil spirit, shaped like a black dot, first entered inside her mind, and then her spirit. At that point-when the black dot entered her heart, she declared that she wanted nothing more to do with the Lord Jesus. That's the unpardonable sin—treading underfoot the Son of God (Heb 10:29).

It is impossible for the average Christian to commit the unpardonable sin. To do so, they would have to have had those experiences as outlined in:

**HEBREWS 6:4-6**

*4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,*

## Battle Arena Emotions

*5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers  
of the age to come,  
6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance,  
since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God,  
and put Him to an open shame.*

The conditions for committing the unpardonable sin are:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Enlightened               | = <i>Recognizing the need to be saved through Jesus Christ</i> |
| 2. Tasted the Heavenly Gift  | = <i>The Lord Jesus Christ</i>                                 |
| 3. Partook the Holy Spirit   | = <i>Being filled with the Holy Spirit</i>                     |
| 4. Tasted the Good Word      | = <i>Mature Christian Life</i>                                 |
| 5. Powers of the Age to Come | = <i>Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Visions, etc.</i>               |

The entrance in heaven is very huge and wide but the exit door is very, very small, that even an ant could not pass through. The Lord God in His vast love for His children will not allow anyone to perish (2 Pe 3:9), but we can choose to perish if we want to. The devil, on the other hand plans man's destruction. And he does so, as we have seen, by tempting a believer from the outside first, and then working his way inside.

The Lord Jesus Christ works from the outside towards the inside in His redemptive ministry. He was crucified outside the temple gates at Jerusalem (Heb 13:12). Then He went into the Holy of Holies in heaven to present His blood of redemption (Heb 10:23-26). If we meditate this truth a little deeper, the Holy Spirit will provide us further illumination, showing that the dying of the Lord Jesus on

the outside signifies our crucifixion of the flesh on the brazen altar at the outer court.

The washing of ourselves at the laver signifies our being cleansed (through the baptism of water) in order that we could offer sacrifices as a priest (Ex 29:3). Then, through our offering of spiritual sacrifices (Heb 13:15-16), we can finally come into the Holy of Holies, the Presence of God, by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb 4:16; 10:19).

Let's return to the spider. After it completed building its web, working from the outside to the inside, it now waits patiently for its dinner. From nowhere comes a fly. It gets entangled in the web. The fly will not just simply lie still and say, *'Into thy hands, O spider, I give my life.'* No. Rather it would seek to free itself as quickly as possible. Though it struggles very hard, the well-constructed web is unforgiving, so it soon ends up as a delicious meal in the spider's stomach.

Something similar happens in our lives. A carnal walk gets you entangled in the realm of sensual emotions, which act like the web of the spider. You find it just as difficult to free yourself as the fly trapped on the spider web. You struggle to walk uprightly in your Christian walk. You struggle helplessly to free yourself from the web of carnality, even though you long to soar like an eagle in your Christian life.

It's because of this web of carnality that you are trapped in a cycle of strife, envying, and divisions, which threaten to break you apart. When there is envy inside you, walking in love is impossible; when there is strife inside you, peace with yourself and others is impossible. You are

totally confused inside. You are not able to control yourself at times.

Your carnal emotions rule you. Inner turmoil and struggles become a part of your daily life when you are walking carnally. You feel your life is a mess. You feel defeated and condemned in God's eyes. Is there a way out, so that you are not the one who is getting all the punches but the one who is going to throw all the punches in the battle arena of emotions?

## **GET OUT!**

Let's get one thing straight. You are made a conqueror, and should not be easily defeated (Rom 8:37; 2 Cor 2:14). The Lord Jesus Christ has defeated all the works of the enemy for us (1 Jn 3:8; Col 2:15). 'It is finished,' declared the Lord. We only now need to learn how to appropriate the victory in our life.

Let us study now the four ways by which we can get out of the realm of carnality.

### *1. Choose To Get Out*

There was once a little girl who wanted to go and play in the park by her house. So she went and asked her mother's permission. Her mother combed her hair and put on her a new set of clothes. Then off she went with her friends to play in the park. As she was playing, she was accidentally pushed into a mud pool. Her beautiful clothes got soiled and dirty, and she received some cuts and bruises on her legs and hands.

## The Spirit Controlled Life

This little girl just sat down in the mud pool and started crying. She wept and wailed hysterically: *Mommy, Mommy, come! Come help me!* But mommy did not come. After some time, she stopped crying. She realized it was useless to just sit in the mud. She picked herself up, shook away the dirt and mud, and walked home.

That's the first thing you want to do—choose to get out. You must decide and choose to get out of this arena of carnality where you are constantly buffeted by the devil. God never overrules individual moral choices but waits for us to take the first step. You must choose to walk in God's commandments. You must choose to love him.

The Lord God is not going to come by and pull your ear, saying: *Now do this. Now do that.* No, God does not do that. He has created us in His own image and likeness, so we can act like Him. Choose to get out by deciding and purposing that you do not want to live this carnal life. Declare thus: *I do not want to live a defeated life anymore. I want to walk with God in the Spirit!* You do the choosing. Take the first step.

Herein is a spiritual principle: Nothing was ever created that was created without the Lord God first purposing and deciding it, and then speaking it forth. Eight times in the Book of Genesis Chapter One we encounter the words: *God said* before *God made*. A creative act followed the purposing, deciding, and speaking forth.

The Word, which became flesh, also followed this pattern. The living Word existed before it became flesh (Jn 1:1,14). It is written: *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound*

*in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven (Matt 16:19, AMP).*

Paul Wylie was skating in the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary, Canada. He was nervous his act before a huge crowd of people. Then in his first jump, something went wrong. In a split second his hand touched ice; the blade did not hold him up. He started slipping and soon realized that he was falling. As he felt he heard the empathetic groan of tens and thousands of voices.

Wylie was faced with an immediate choice: He could just give up, or he could pick himself up and keep on skating and do his best. He continued his routine and skated his best. At the end of his performance the entire crowd burst into enthusiastic applause for his courage and determination.

When you fall, the first thing you need to do is choose to get out of the pit of sin. The Lord will be standing on your side with outstretched arms to help you up. He will say: *Let's go on. You can do it. Together, you and Me, we are going to walk in the Spirit.*

Consider the apostle Peter and the Lord Jesus walking on the water.

***MATTHEW 14:22-33***

*22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.*

*23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

24 *But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.*

25 *Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.*

26 *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.*

27 *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

28 *And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

29 *So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.*

30 *But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"*

31 *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

32 *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

33 *Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."*

The apostle Peter said: *Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water* (v. 28). The apostle Peter was walking on the water fixing his eyes on the Lord. He then became carnal and looked at the waters. To walk on the water is a supernatural act enabled by the Holy Spirit. Although he started his short walk towards the Lord Jesus by walking in the Spirit, Peter saw *"the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink"* (v. 30).



He began to sink when he became carnal in his thoughts. But he chose to get out of the situation immediately. The Bible says: *he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"* (v. 30), *and immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him* (v. 31). Together with the Lord Jesus, Peter was able to walk on the water a second time, and make his way safely back to the boat.

God is a good God and the God of second chance. Not only a second chance, though, for it is written: *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand* (Ps 37:24).

We will look at another example of how a young man chose to get out of his carnal life.

**LUKE 15:11-24**

*11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.*

*12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.*

*13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.*

*14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.*

*15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.*

*16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.*

*17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."*

*20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*

*21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

*22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.*

*23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;*

*24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.*

In this parable of the prodigal son, we read of how he wasted his wealth on riotous living. It is written: *For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags* (Prov 23:21) and *whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth* (Prov 29:3). The friends who promised to be with him through thick and thin soon disappeared and were nowhere to be found.

This young man ended up working for a man feeding pigs. His life was no better than a pig's life. In fact, the pigs were having a better life than him. Probably even the pigs despised and hated his stinking presence. His pitiable carnal condition turned for the better when he chose to get out of the situation.

*“But when he came to himself, he said, I will arise and go to my father”* (v. 17-18). He decided that he did not want this pig’s life anymore. He chose to get out. He arose. He got out of his carnality and walked towards his father. Likewise, you must choose to get out of your carnal life, the battle arena of the flesh, and start walking in the Spirit towards your Heavenly Father.

## *2. Walk in the Realm of Love*

When you walk in love, God dwells in you and surrounds you with His love and perfects it (1 Jn 4:12,16). When you walk in love, you walk with God and with the Lord Jesus by your side. He then perfects His Image and Likeness in you. If you don’t choose to walk in love, then Satan will try to tempt you into the arena of fleshly emotions, making you carnal.

You must decide and choose to walk in love and not by carnal emotions. When you are govern by carnality, you are always buffeted by fear. But there is no fear in love (1 Jn 4:18). The very God-kind of love is shed into your heart when you accept the Lord Jesus into your life (Rom 5:5). You just need to learn how to perfect it.

It is written: *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him* (1 Jn 2:5). The word *keep* in the Greek is *tereo*, which means: *a watch; to guard (from loss by keeping the eye upon); to prevent escaping*. We can do that through reading, meditating, and obeying the Word, putting into practice in your daily life what the Word teaches and commands.

How to walk in love? The apostle Paul, after giving a beautiful revelation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in

1 Corinthians 12, says in verse 31: *But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.* Love supersedes the gifts because the fruit and gifts of the Spirit are embodied in love.

In 1983, I heard the testimony of a saintly man of God from South India and of how he prayed for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He used to minister to orphans in the 1960's. After the children were put to sleep, he would spend many hours in prayer and communion with God. He prayed fervently and earnestly for many months, beseeching the Lord to bless him with the gifts.

One morning about 3AM, as he was deep in prayers, he had a visitation from God. The Lord Jesus appeared unto him and said: *My son, which do you want, the gifts of the Spirit or love?* He very eagerly answered: *The gifts, Lord.* The Lord Jesus repeated the question. The man of God gave the same answer. The Lord asked a third time: *Which do you want, the gifts or love?* After deep consideration, he answered: *I want your love, Lord!*

The Lord broke out in a smile: *Son, you have asked for the best gift. The gifts of the Spirit are embodied in love.* The Lord Jesus then blessed him. Love-the compassion of Christ Jesus began to flow out of his heart like tears from the eyes. He went on to have a mighty signs and wonders ministry. Blind eyes were opened; deaf ears were healed; the lame walked; the dumb spoke; demons were cast out; and even the dead were raised in his ministry.

Love, the God-kind, carries the grace, mercy, and compassion of God. The word *love* in Greek *agape*, which means: *affection* or *benevolence*. It expresses *the deep and constant love and interests of a perfect being towards entirely*

*unworthy objects, producing and fostering a reverential “love” in them toward the giver and a practical “love” towards those who are partakers of the same, and a desire to help others to seek the giver.*

Let's read the great expose of love.

***1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8***

*4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;*

*5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

*6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;*

*7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

From these scriptures we find nine ingredients of the *agape* love:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. <i>Patience</i>   | - <i>Love that is Passive</i> : does not hurry; is longsuffering; bears, believes, hopes and endures all things (v. 4,7). |
| 2. <i>Kindness</i>   | - <i>Love in Action</i> : does not act rashly or insolently; is not inconsistent, puffed up, or proud (v. 4).             |
| 3. <i>Generosity</i> | - <i>Love in Competition</i> : is not envious nor jealous (v. 4).   |
| 4. <i>Courtesy</i>   | - <i>Love in Society</i> ; does not behave unseemly; is always polite; is at home   |

## The Spirit Controlled Life

and comfortable with all classes of people; is never rude or discourteous (v. 5).

### 5. *Unselfishness*

- *Love in Essence*: is never selfish, sour nor bitter; seeks only the good of others always and does not retaliate or seek revenge (v. 5).

### 6. *Humility*

- *Love in Hiding*: does not parade in public; makes no airs; works without promoting self (v. 4).

### 7. *Good Temper*

- *Love in Disposition*: is never irritated and neither is resentful (v. 5).

### 8. *Righteousness*

- *Love in Conduct*: it hates sin; is never glad when others do wrong; always glad to do good to others; always slow to expose the sins of others; always eager to believe the best in everybody; is always hopeful and enduring (v. 6-7).

### 9. *Sincerity*

- *Love in Profession*: is never boastful and conceited neither is a hypocrite but always honest; leaves no false impression but that which is strictly true; does not assert itself; does not blaze out in passionate anger nor broods over suffered wrongs; always acts justly, joyfully and truthfully; knows how to be silent and quiet; is full of trust and always present (v. 5)

When you begin to walk in love, you begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit in your life. The fruit of the Spirit is the work, which the presence of the Holy Spirit within you accomplishes when you choose to walk in love. Faith, too, works by love. It is written: *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love* (Gal 5:6). Faith cannot work in the arena of fleshly emotions.

In 1991, I went to *Calgary*, Canada. I witnessed an incident, which will clearly illustrate the above-mentioned truth. The young man who was accompanying in my travels in Canada was having some serious problems with his girlfriend's family. The girlfriend's family opposed their relationship and even refused to allow their daughter to talk with this boy on the telephone. He was trying very hard to call the girl, who was living in an island in the Caribbean.

Each time he called, the father would answer the phone and refuse to allow the girl to speak. In the background, he could hear the girl weeping and pleading with her father to allow her to speak. But the father seemed to let out a sadistic chuckle and ignored his daughter's pleas. This young man got so mad and angry and he began to scream and shout: *I rebuke you, Satan, in the Name of Jesus. I command you in the Name of Jesus to let go and give the phone to her.* He spoke these words repeatedly, treating them almost like a magical formula. But it seemed that all the shouting, screaming and commanding did not work. The father laughed on sadistically and hung up the phone.

The young man was very upset. He broke into tears and pressed me: *Brother, why didn't faith work? Why must the Lord let me down like this? Why wasn't God answering*

*my prayers?* Realizing that it was useless to talk sense and reason with an angry man, I waited for him to calm down. When he was calm and had cleared his mind, I told him: *You cannot get faith to work on emotions.*

I explained to him that he was commanding Satan, who was manipulating the situation, not by faith but by emotions. He got into the battle arena of fleshly emotions, only to be defeated by the devil. I told him: *If you want to take authority over this situation, it must be by faith and love, because faith works by love. Emotions brought anger, fear and revengefulness in you, which is the battle arena controlled by the devil.* He realized his mistakes and asked me how to solve the problem.

I told him: *Let's do it God's way.* He forgave the father for refusing his daughter to speak with him and blessed him (Matt 5:43-44). After praying thus, hope, faith, and boldness surfaced in his eyes. I then said: *Now let's take authority over the situation and bind the devil.* As soon as we finished praying, within five minutes, the telephone rang. It was his beloved girlfriend and they happily chatted for an hour.

Faith works by love and it never fails.



## CHAPTER 3

# *Resist the Devil*

Scientists tell us that the seeds of certain types of desert bushes must be damaged by a storm before they will germinate. Covered by hard shells that keep out water, these seeds can lie dormant on the sand for several seasons until conditions are right for growth.

When heavy rains finally bring flash floods, the little seeds are banged against sand, gravel, and rocks as they rush down the slopes. Eventually they settle in a depression where the soil is damp several feet deep. Able to absorb water through the nicks and scratches they acquired on their downhill plunge, they finally begin to grow.

Sometimes we need bad weather and adverse conditions to stimulate our spiritual growth and development. Consider how the Lord Jesus Himself was trained.

### ***MATTHEW 4:1***

*1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

**LUKE 4:1-2**

*1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*

*2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.*

The scriptures expressly declare that the Holy Spirit Himself drove the Lord Jesus into the wilderness - where there is nothing to rely upon, to be tested or tempted by the devil. Under the watchful eyes of the Holy Spirit the Lord Jesus was subjected - like the seed being banged against sand and gravels, to the various tests and temptations of the devil for 40 days. He came out of it unscathed and strong in the power of the Spirit (Lk 4:14). Likewise, we must learn to resist the vile and temptations of the devil.

How can we resist the devil?

*1. Resist the Enemy's Temptations*

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:13**

*13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

In Greek mythology we read about Achilles the great warrior. His mother had been warned at Achilles' birth that he would die of a wound. So she dipped him as a baby in the Styx River. That was supposed to make him invincible.

## Resist the Devil

But she held him by one heel which the protective waters didn't cover. And it was through that heel that he received a fatal wound.

No one is temptation-proof. Our weaknesses, left guarded and submitted to the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, will expose a gaping hole in our spiritual armor which will be used by the enemy of our souls to hurl fiery darts at us to attack and wound us (Eph 6:16).

Satan always uses temptations to force and corner us into a boxing ring like arena, where you become his punching bag. You cannot stop temptations from coming upon you. You cannot prevent the fiery darts of the devil. But you can stop meditating and acting on those temptations. Temptation in itself is not sin. What you do or act is sin.

Let us suppose you are walking down the street and a strong gust of wind comes along. You feel the wind pushing fiercely against your face and body. There is nothing you can do to stop the wind from blowing, for even the Lord Jesus had said: *The wind blows where it wishes* (Jn 3:8). But you can run and hide in a building from the wind. Likewise, you cannot stop the temptations from coming or prevent the devil from hurling fiery darts but you can surely resist the devil.

Let us consider Joseph for example.

### **GENESIS 39:7-12**

*7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.*

*9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

*10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.*

*11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,*

*12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.*

Joseph could not stop Pharaoh's wife from tempting him, but he resisted the temptation by fleeing out of the house. You cannot prevent the rain from falling, but you can prevent yourself from getting wet.

## 2. Submit yourself to God

### **JAMES 4:7**

*7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*

The word *submit* in Greek is *hupotasso* (hoop-ot-as'-so), which means *to subordinate*; reflexively, *to obey*. It conveys the thought: *be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), and submit self unto.*

## Resist the Devil

When you submit, you are surrendering yourself to God. You are saying: *Lord without you I can do nothing. Please deliver me.* And God knows how to deliver you out of any tempting situation (1 Cor 10:13; 2 Pe 2:9).

When you submit to God, He sends deliverance. Consider the Lord Jesus Christ at the garden of Gethsemane.

### **LUKE22:41-43**

*41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,*

*42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

*43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.*

There lived a certain saintly man of God in South India who was once reading the portion of the Gospels where the Lord's Gethsemane experience is recorded. He paused and asked the Lord: *Lord, how did you overcome this bitter experience?* The Holy Spirit then fell on him: *Come, I will show you what actually happened.* Immediately he was taken in the Spirit back 2000 years, to the place in the garden of Gethsemane.

There he saw the Lord Jesus Christ agonizing in prayer. At another corner, he saw the devil cunningly waiting to see the downfall of the Son of God. The Lord Jesus was crying and agonizing greatly and the devil was smiling craftily, waiting to pounce on Him. When the Lord Jesus finally overcame the flesh and temptation through prayer, saying: *Nevertheless not My will but Yours be done*, the devil lifted his hands to his head and fled in terror crying: *Gone, gone. All is gone. I am defeated.*

The Lord faced a great temptation to give up the cross. But when He finally surrendered and submitted Himself to God: *Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done*, God sent an angel to strengthen and deliver Him from the temptation. Likewise, the Lord will send deliverance for us, because He knows what it is to be tempted (Heb 4:15).

So, resist the devil by submitting yourselves to God.

### 3. Be Grounded in the Word

#### **MATTHEW 4:3-10**

3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, *"If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."*

4 But He answered and said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, *"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"*

7 Jesus said to him, *"It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"*

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, *"All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."*

10 Then Jesus said to him, *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

## Resist the Devil

Let us look to the Lord Jesus Christ for a method to resist temptations. For every temptation that the devil brought, the Lord did not rely on His own strength but relied on the Word, which abides forever. When you allow the Word of Christ to dwell in you richly, your inner man is strengthened (Col 3:16).

The Lord Jesus once told the apostle Peter: *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it* (Matt 16:18). The apostle Peter received a revelation from the Father God of who the Lord Jesus really is (Matt 16:16-17). The Lord Jesus then said that upon that rock, *the revelation—the Word* that the apostle Peter received—He will build His church. That is why the scriptures say:

### ***EPHESIANS 2:19-22***

*19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

*20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

*21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,*

*22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

When you meditate God's word, your inner man is strengthened. The written word, the *logos*, becomes *rhema*, the spoken-creative power word within you. It will then come forth out of you in power and authority. That was how the Lord Jesus was able to command and rebuke demon spirits by His Word (Lk 4:33-36).

You not only resist the devil by the Word of God but even pull down every wicked imagination that the devil would bring (2 Cor 10:4-5). So, resist the devil by being richly grounded in the Word.

#### 4. *Remain Steadfast in Faith*

##### **1 PETER 5:8**

*8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

The word *steadfast* in Greek *stereos* (ster-eh-os') signifies: *stiff*, i.e. *solid, stable (literally or figuratively)*. It conveys the concept to be strong and sure. And the word *vigilant* in Greek *gregoreuo* (gray-gor-yoo'-o) signifies: *to keep awake*, i.e. *watch (literally or figuratively)*. It conveys the thought to be awake, and be watchful. To be *sober and vigilant* can then be define as: *Be watchful on your guard as a stiff and solid soldier.*

Being steadfast is to be firm, rooted, established, strong immovable, and resolute in faith, believing that the finished work of Christ in defeating the devil is all-sufficient accomplishment for you to rest in Him (1 Jn 3:8).

I once read of the Apostle of Faith, *Smith Wigglesworth* witnessing an incident that illustrates the above principle. He was standing at a bus stop in England when he saw a woman hurrying towards it. Her pet dog too followed her all the way to the bus stop. In spite of all the coaxing with loving tender words for the dog to return to the house, the dog stubbornly continued to toy around her legs.



## Resist the Devil

The bus that this woman should board arrived and still the dog would not let go. The bus driver was getting irritated and impatient. The woman's countenance changed suddenly. With a strong voice of firmness and authority she ordered the dog home. And off it went, as fast as it could. As Wigglesworth beheld this, he exclaimed loudly to the astonishment of all around: *That's it. That's the way to deal with the devil. Not loving words like, "Leave me, O' devil," but firm, strong, and authoritative command.*

Let the faith of Christ—His finished work of defeating the enemy and putting him to open shame—become the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy, ruling your heart and mind and anchoring you so strongly you would not be wavering. So, resist the devil by remaining steadfast in faith.

### 5. Maintain A Good Prayer Life

#### **MATTHEW 26:41**

*41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Consider the apostle Peter, how he was led to deny the Lord Jesus by succumbing to lying on the devil's lap through yielding to temptation. The Lord Jesus warned him: *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren"* (Lk 22:31-32).

The Lord Jesus warned the apostle Peter of the devil's plans and counseled him to watchful in prayer so that he will not fall into temptation. But the apostle Peter did not take the warning seriously and had a good night's

sleep in the garden. He was not keeping company with the Lord Jesus in prayer and when he was drawn away, weak in faith, fell prey to the devil's temptations and denied knowing the Lord (Lk 22:54-62). Do not the scriptures say: *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed* (Jas 1:14).

Satan and demon spirits tremble when believers pray. That is the reason why so much distraction comes to believers when they pray. Just at that moment of prayer a hundred and one things will come to your mind. These are distractions from the devil.

I was praying as usual at 3AM one day in January 1984 when my spirit was taken out of my body to see things happening in the Spirit realm. At a little distance away from where I was praying, I saw two evil spirits sitting and talking about me. Somehow, I was invisible to them. Probably the Lord put some kind of invisible shield around me to show me these things.

The evil spirits said: *It's very difficult to tempt him. He is always praying on the upper room. There is a wall of fire all around him* (cp. Zech 2:5). I realized then that when we maintain a regular and consistent prayer life, evil spirits tremble in fear on account of us, and it is easier to overcome and resist them.

## 6. Put On the Armor of God

### **EPHESIANS 6:13-17**

*13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

## Resist the Devil

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,  
having put on the breastplate of righteousness,  
15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of  
the gospel of peace;  
16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you  
will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked  
one.  
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of  
the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

When Steve played American football (rugby) as a kid, he had to wear a lot of equipment – helmet, shoulder pads, and a variety of other protective gear. Running around with all that, Steve used to feel awkward and clumsy in the beginning. These gears proved the much needed protection against serious injury. When a football player suits up, he knows that his equipment is designed to protect him in battle against a dangerous opponent.

As Christians we too face an extremely dangerous foe – an enemy that roams around like a roaring lion. But our good God had provided for us a far better protective suit – the armor of God.

This armor is called the *armor of God* because it is made in heaven. There is also another armor called the *armor of light* (Rom 13:12). Our gracious God has provided us with such protection to cast off the works of darkness.

## 7. Looking Unto Jesus

### **HEBREWS 12:2**

*2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our  
faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

A man told about a dog he had when he was a boy. Periodically his father would test the dog's obedience. He would place a tempting piece of meat on the floor and give the command: *No!* The dog, who must have had a strong urge to go for the meat, was placed in a most difficult situation - to obey or disobey his master's command.

The man recalled: *The dog never looked at the meat. He seemed to feel that if he did, the temptation to disobey would be too great. So he looked steadfastly at its master's face.* The man learned a lesson that day from his dog – keep your eyes fix on the Lord Jesus in order to overcome temptation.

Do not be drawn away from God's presence, but rather draw near to God through prayer and He will draw near to you and help you resist the devil (Jas 4:8).

According to Greek mythology, *sirens (sea nymphs)* inhabited certain Mediterranean coastal areas. As ships pass by, the sirens sang such enchanting songs that the sailors, drawn by the music, would jump overboard and drown.

Odysseus was on a ship that had to pass that way. Aware of the powerful allurement of those songs, he ordered that he be bound with ropes to the mast and that the crewmen's ears be sealed with wax to block out the tantalizing music of the sirens. Having taken such precautions, Odysseus and the rest of the crew were able to sail past without yielding to the lure of the sea nymphs.

As Christians, we should be prepared to resist temptations to evil. Let us purpose and be determined to

## Resist the Devil

keep away from any enticements that we know would play into our weakness. We must deny our desire to participate in it.

The best way to escape temptation is to resist the devil and flee to God.



## CHAPTER 4

# *Walk in the Spirit*

### ***GALATIANS 5:16, 25***

*16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

*25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

You may have heard many times that you should walk in the Spirit. Every pastor and preacher would exhort believers that they should walk in the Spirit. But not many can tell us how.

When a woman goes into labor pains, she is immediately rushed to the maternity hospital where midwives and gynecologists can attend to her. As the baby comes out of the womb, it is a bloody mess. No gynecologist would tell the new mother: *Here is your new baby. Take her home.* No. The baby is cleaned, wrapped in clean linen, and presented to the proud mother and father. The baby is taken home and fed on milk. As it is growing up, the parents teach the baby how to respond to all things around him and how to walk in his new life.

Likewise, when we are born again, we are washed clean of all our filthiness by the blood of the Lord Jesus

(Ezek 36:25; Col 1:14; Rev 1:5) and clothed with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness (Isa 61:10). The Lord Jesus then puts His own Spirit within us to teach us to walk in His commandments (Ezek 36:27). The Spirit of God indwelling within us will lead us to walk in the Spirit. We just need to co-operate with the Holy Spirit and learn how to do so.

## HOW TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

The word *walk* in Greek is *stoicheo* which means: *to march in (military) rank (keep step)*, i.e. (figuratively) *to conform to virtue and piety*. It is an exhortation to keep step with one another in submission of heart to the Holy Spirit, and therefore of keeping step with Christ, to live; to follow (as a companion).

*To Walk in the Spirit means to live habitually in the Holy Spirit, being responsive to, controlled and guided by the Spirit, living under His constant guidance and influence.*

When you walk in the Spirit, you are led by the Spirit of God (Rom 8:14). The word *led* in Greek *ago* which means: *to bring, lead*, is used intransitively and signifying *let us go* (as if to say, *let us be leading on*). It also conveys: *to bear, bring, carry, and lead; to lead gently and without violence*. The Holy Spirit is the perfect gentleman.

I vividly remember my salvation experience, which clearly illustrates this truth of being brought and led gently without violence by the Holy Spirit. Let me share with you my personal supernatural tangible encounter with the Living Christ through the Holy Spirit.



## Walk in the Spirit

I went to a Christian evangelistic crusade in the month of June 1978. The preacher shared a simple gospel message of redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ after making a comparison between evolution and creation. When he gave the altar call, I heard a audible still small voice deep within me saying: *This is the true God. Go and follow Him* (cp. 1 Jn 5:20). But being a Hindu, I rebelled at that voice. But the Voice kept repeating the words, '*This is the true God. Go and follow Him.*'

The Voice grew in loudness and intensity till my entire being was reverberating with the words: '*This is the true God. God and follow Him.*' I thought of a scheme to deceive the Voice and said to myself, '*Maybe tomorrow or the next week I'll accept the Lord Jesus as my Saviour.*' But the Voice was not to be fooled.

I then felt the chair on which I was sitting on, literally vibrating and shaking as if wanting to get me to stand up. But I was as stubborn as a donkey. I would not want to follow a foreign god. Then I felt a Hand below my buttocks, very gently lifting me up to my feet. And very gently, the Hand clasp my hand and led me along. By now, I quit resisting and I submitted myself to the leading of the Hand. The Hand led me down three flight of steps to the altar. I was being led by the Spirit of God—Who loved me and gave His Son for me—very gently, without violence or excessive force.

When you walk in the Spirit with God, you are being led by the Spirit. You will hear the Spirit saying: *Come on son, Come on daughter. Walk with Me. Let Me lead you by the rivers of living waters. Walk in the Spirit!*

## WHY WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

From the beginning of time, we read of man walking with God in the Spirit and was led by Him supernaturally. We read that the patriarchs Enoch and Noah walked with God (Gen 5:22-24; 6:9). It is the desire of God to be with His creation. He wants to be in Partnership with us, so that we can succeed in all things. *'Let Me walk with My son and My daughter. Let Me lead them by My Spirit. They have to stay in the Spirit realm to rule the natural world. Let Me lead them.'*

When God told Adam that he could have dominion over the fish of the sea, fowl of the air, over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth (Gen 1:26), it is supernatural because it defies natural laws. The supernatural can only activate in the Spirit realm.

It is written in Genesis 2:19 that the Lord *'brought them (every beast and fowl) unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, which was the name thereof.'* Because Adam was walking with God in the Spirit, the Lord wanted to work in Partnership with him and to share eternal life with him.

In Genesis 3:8 it is written that, *'they (Adam and Eve) heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.'* Adam walked with God and the Lord walked with him and spoke with him face to face. As long as he walked with God in the Spirit, he did not sin.

When God commanded the Prophet Moses to build the Tabernacle, He said: *And let them make Me a Sanctuary, that I may dwell among them* (Ex 25:8). The Lord God wanted to dwell and walk among and in them because they

## Walk in the Spirit

were His people (2 Cor 6:16). He, being their God, wanted to lead them by His Spirit.

The Bible also clearly records how they were supernaturally led by the Spirit of the Lord God: *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night* (Ex 13:21). So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange God with Him (Deu 32:12).

Walking with God is walking in the Spirit. As long as Israel was walking with and before God in His commandments the Lord God kept them from all evil by His saving power and grace.

### 1. *He kept them from sickness and diseases.*

#### **EXODUS 15:26**

*26 and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."*

### 2. *He kept them in physical strength.*

#### **PSALMS 105:37**

*37 He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes.*

### 3. *He kept their clothes from wear and tear.*

#### **DEUTERONOMY 8:4**

*4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.*

Man is created a spirit being who has a soul and lives in a body. When you walk in the Spirit, you are touching the Spirit realm where God is and are able by His Spirit to translate the things in the Spirit realm, manifesting them in the natural realm.

Let us consider an example. The Bible says in Matthew 18:20, *'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.'* Whenever two or three people gather for prayer or even fellowship, the Lord is in our midst. It is even written that He even listens to His children's conversation (Mal 3:16).

But though the Word says He is present in our midst, we do not see Him. Why? Because the Lord exists in the Spirit realm. By His grace, when He opens our spiritual eyes, we are able to behold Him in the Spirit. We could then bring His blessings from the Spirit realm and translate them into the natural realm.

Let us consider further the scripture in Ephesians 1:3: *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.'* God has already blessed us with all kinds of blessings in the Spirit realm. As we walk with God in the Spirit through a life of prayer and obeying His Word, we are able to take those things in the Spirit realm and translate them into the natural realm for our benefit.

The Spirit realm and the natural realm co-exist side by side. God sometimes moves from the Spirit to the natural realm to manifest Himself to His people. Sometimes God translates us from the natural to the Spirit realm to talk with us and show us heavenly things (cp. Ex 24:15-18).

## Walk in the Spirit

Sometimes when I am preaching in meetings, I would see visions of certain things that I should preach. And when I am praying for the people, the Lord Jesus comes and stands by my side. He tells me of people's needs and of what He is going to do. I remember once in December 1985, I was in *Perak*, Malaysia, for meetings.

As I was speaking at the meeting, suddenly I was in the Spirit realm. I saw the Lord Jesus even as I was still preaching at the same time. The Lord Jesus spoke and revealed to me certain things from a spiritual perspective, which became part of the sermon. I preached at that meeting the things that Lord was showing me.

The things of God are in the Spirit realm. When you walk in the Spirit, you are able to step into the Spirit realm, translate those things, and bring them back into the natural realm. The only way to stay in the Spirit realm is to spend quality and quantity time in prayer and communion alone with God. When you do that, God will come and walk with and lead you by His Spirit. You need to walk in the Spirit so that God could lead you by His Spirit in the natural realm in victory at all times.



## CHAPTER 5

# *Living in the Spirit*

### ***GALATIANS 5:25***

*25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

In winter some oak trees retain their crisp, dry leaves long after the maples, the elms, and the walnuts have become bald and as bare skeleton. Even the strong winter winds and the early spring rains do not completely strip the oak branches of all their old leaves.

But as springtime progresses, warmer winds blow and something wonderful begins to happen. Tiny buds begin to appear at the tips of the twigs, and dried remnants of the preceding season fall off. New life then replaces the old.

After we get saved we realize to our great shock that old sinful habits still cling on to our lives with the same tenacity as those oak leaves. How could we remove these leftovers from our fallen nature? How could we walk in the Spirit so that we no longer fulfill the lusts of our flesh?

There are three ways to ‘Walk in the Spirit.’

## 1. *Refuse to Walk in the Flesh.*

### ***GALATIANS 5:16-17***

*16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

*17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

Mike's doctor noticed a small spot on his skin – one that he thought needed some attention. It was a tiny problem that had to be treated so it would not grow into something worse. Mike hadn't known it was a problem until his physician pointed it out.

The doctor prescribed a special cream that, when applied, helped the good cells in Mike's body to come to that spot and fight off the bad ones. The medication started a small battle between the diseased cells and the good ones.

Likewise a similar battle goes on inside each of us from the day we received our salvation. Sins abiding in our flesh wages a war with our spirits new redeemed life of purity and holiness. For most believers this is an ongoing endless battle.

The apostle Paul urges such struggling believers to keep themselves insulated from sin by keeping their distance from it (Rom 12:9). Completely separate yourselves from the unclean things of the world (2 Cor 6:17).

Walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh are two opposite poles. What does it mean to walk in the flesh?



Walking in the flesh is to gratify the cravings, desires and passions of the flesh. The 'flesh' refers to the whole natural or unregenerate man, centered on the self, prone to sin, and opposed to God (Rom 7:18).

The regenerate man is not 'in the flesh' but 'in the spirit' (Rom 8:9). But the flesh is still in him and he may choose to 'walk after the flesh' or 'in the Spirit.' Victory over the flesh will be the habitual experience of every believer who walks in the Spirit (Rom 8: 2, 4).

When you walk in the flesh, there are outward manifestations of the works of the flesh.

***GALATIANS 5:19-21***

*19 Now, the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,  
21 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 who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.'*

Let us now look at these works of the flesh carefully.

1. **Adultery**, Gr. *moichos* – *unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another*. Illicit sexual relationship between two persons, either of whom is married to another.

2. **Fornication**, Gr. *porneia* – *harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively - idolatry*. The same as adultery, but also unlawful and illicit sexual relationship between unmarried persons.

3. **Uncleanness**, Gr. *akatharsia* – *impurity (the quality), physically or morally*. This includes sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism and all manner of bestiality that is the opposite of cleanliness.

4. **Lasciviousness**, Gr. *aselgeia* – *licentiousness (sometimes including other vices)*. When unclean thoughts control a person, it is called Lasciviousness. Promoting that which produces lewd emotions, that which fosters lewd sex emotions and relationships; thus lustfulness and unchastity. The person would mentally undress a woman give himself over to sexual cravings.

5. **Idolatry**, Gr. *eidololatreia* – *image-worship (literally or figuratively)*. Image worship, but goes beyond to anything on which affections are passionately set and admiration is extended as to a god.

6. **Witchcraft**, Gr. *pharmakeia* – *magic (literally or figuratively), sorcery*. Sorcery, practice of consulting evil spirits, the use of drugs to cast spells of evil or good by employing unseen spirits.

7. **Hatred**, Gr. *echthra* – *hostility; by implication, a reason for opposition, enmity*. Bitter dislike, ill-will and malice against one, and holding grudges. Personal hostility to someone else.

8. **Variance**, Gr. *eris* – *a quarrel, i.e. (by implication) wrangling, contention, debate, strife*. Discord, quarrelling, dissensions, arguments and disagreements. Being “at odds” with people.

9. **Emulations**, Gr. *zelos* – *jealousy, as of a husband [figuratively, of God], or an enemy, malice), envying,*

*indignation*. Strivings and jealousies madly at work to outdo another; rivalry. It is an attitude that will not cooperate with others unless it gets its own way.

10. **Wrath**, Gr. *thumos* – *passion (as if breathing hard), fierceness, indignation*. Determined and lasting anger, turmoil with indignation, emotional outbursts and explosions of anger. Wrath is the outward manifestation of inward anger.

11. **Strife**, Gr. *eritheia* – *faction, contentious*. Contention, jangling, determination to pay back for evil done to one. Disputations. Simply means discord or disharmony. Strife is a group related activity. It manifests itself in temper tantrums, complaining, and troublemaking.

12. **Seditions**, Gr. *dichostsis* – *disunion, i.e. (figuratively) dissension, division*. Seditious parties and factions stirring up strife. It is spiritual treason.

13. **Heresies**, Gr. *hairesis* – *disunion, sect*. Deviation from truth – an opinion that is contrary to the Word of God.

14. **Envyings**, Gr. *phthonos* – *ill-will (as detraction), i.e. jealousy (spite)*. A degrading and disgraceful passion satisfied at the expense of another. Envy is jealousy without a particular target. It has this attitude: *everyone gets a better break than me*.

15. **Murders**, Gr. *phonos* – *to slay; murder, be slain with, slaughter*. To kill by taking the life of an innocent person by hatred or illegal means.

16. **Drunkennes**, Gr. *methe* – *intoxication*. Becoming enslaved to drink, living intoxicated. Excessive use of alcohol.

17. **Revellings**, Gr. *komos* – a carousal (as if letting loose), rioting. Rioting, carousing, obscene boisterous pleasures, wild parties and brawling..

These are the 17 types of the works of the flesh that defile a person. The scriptures also warn that those who walk and practice the works of the flesh '*shall not inherit the kingdom of God*' (Gal 5:21; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Rev 21:8).

## PRODUCTS OF THE WORKS OF FLESH

If you walk in the flesh by doing the works of the flesh, what does it produce?

### A. Corruption

#### ***GALATIANS 6:8***

*8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

*Corruption*, Greek *phthora* signifies *decay*, i.e. *ruin* (spontaneous or inflicted, literally or figuratively): *destroy, perish*. It also conveys the thought: 'a bringing or being brought into an inferior or worse condition, a destruction or corruption.' The works of the flesh corrupt the physical body, for they gratify the natural desires and minister to one's own needs or lusts.

In 1 Corinthians 5:5; the apostle Paul gives further light on the corruption of the flesh.

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:5 (AMP)**

*5 You are to deliver this man over to Satan for physical discipline [to destroy carnal lusts which prompted him to incest], that [his] spirit may [yet] be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

The word *destruction*, Greek *olethros* signifies *to destroy; a prolonged form; ruin, i.e. death, punishment*. Something that is ruined and thus unsuitable or unable to fulfill its original purpose.

I was once asked to come and pray for a dying church elder in North India. I was told that his lungs, kidneys, and liver had been corrupted and destroyed. According to his doctor, he didn't have too many days left. As he was expected to die at any moment, the whole house was filled with weeping relatives. I was ushered into this man's room by his brother, a Pastor.

This man was a pathetic sight to look at. Though he was on an oxygen-masked respirator, he was still gasping for breath. I knelt by his bedside to pray. Each time I opened my mouth to utter the prayer of faith for healing, I found myself praying that his sins be forgiven. This was repeated three times. I felt words for healing being taken out and words for forgiveness being put in my mouth. I asked the Holy Spirit why I am not able to pray for this man's healing.

In a vision I saw his body as though through an X-ray. I saw his corrupted organs and I knew by the Holy Spirit that his body was destroyed because of drunkenness, hatred, and strivings, which were later confirmed by family members. The Holy Spirit counseled me not to pray for his healing but to pray that his sins will be forgiven

(cp. 1 Jn 5:16). I then prayed with great compassion that his sins which brought on his body's corruption and destruction be forgiven him. I later learned that he died a few days later.

On another occasion I was asked to pray for a terminally ill person in Sikkim, India. I was told that this 24 year-old young man is suffering with terminal AIDS, and that he is not aware of it. I was also requested not to mention of the disease in prayer.

When I stepped into the room where he was kept in the hospital I heart was pitiful for the young man. He was a handsome vibrant looking young person. After exchanging initial pleasantries, I closed my eyes to pray for him. My heart was moved with compassion for him. I implored the Lord to be merciful towards him.

At that moment the Holy Spirit spoke to me: *Don't pray for his healing. His body has been turned over to the devil for the destruction of his flesh* (cp. 1 Cor 5:5). Needless to say I was shocked. The Holy Spirit then revealed to me what a licentious, lustful and fornicator this young man was. He used to lure beautiful young woman with enticement of gifts and with the promise of marriage. After defiling their virginity through sexual intercourse he will crush and cast them away as how you will throw a waste paper into the dust bin.

The Holy Spirit counseled me to pray that God will have mercy on him and forgive his sins so that at least his spirit and soul shall be saved. I then prayed with much compassion for him for about 20 minutes. After which I heard the voice of the Lord Jesus say: *I am forgiving him of*

*his sins because of your prayers. His soul shall be saved. But he will return back only in a coffin from New Delhi.*

This young man's family was planning on taking him to a reputable hospital in the capital of India for advance treatment. Sure to the word of the Lord, he died in the hospital and was brought back to his hometown in a coffin. A young life wasted!

The works of the flesh brings corruption and destruction of the body. But, if you walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will produce an incorruptible divine nature in you (1 Pe 1:23; 2 Pe 1:4).

## **B. Condemnation**

### **ROMANS 8:1**

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

*Condemnation, Greek katakrima – an adverse sentence (the verdict). It signifies 'to give judgment against, pass sentence upon; adjudging guilty of wrong.'*

This scripture, Romans 8:1, is the most often misquoted scripture in the Bible. Christians who are living in the flesh sometimes use this scripture as their shield of faith. Let's read how a few translations of the Bible say about this scripture.

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

2. AMPLIFIED: *THEREFORE, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.*

3. YOUNG'S LITERAL: *There is, then, now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

4. WEBSTER: *There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

5. WORD ENGLISH: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who don't walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

6. DOUAY-RHEIMS: *There is now therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh.*

7. INTERLINEAR GREEK transliteration: *There is no therefore now condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after flesh, but after the Spirit.*

If you would read these scriptures completely, you would notice it says that there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. So, only those who live in Christ Jesus and walk after the Spirit are not condemned but those who walk after the flesh are condemned.

By whom are you condemned? God? No! The Lord God does not condemn, He only convicts. Let's read the Gospel of John.



**JOHN 8:3-11**

*3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,*

*4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.*

*5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"*

*6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.*

*7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."*

*8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.*

*9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.*

*10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"*

*11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

The Scribes and the Pharisees brought this woman caught in adultery before the Lord Jesus for open public ridicule and condemnation. The Lord Jesus very simply told that any of her accusers who had never sinned should cast the first stone. Convicted in their conscience, because none of them were without sin, one by one they all left the scene.

After some time, the Lord Jesus looked at the woman and asked her where her accusers were who had condemned her. When the woman answered that there was none, the Lord told her, *'Neither do I condemn you.'* The Lord God condemns you not. He was saying, *'I don't condemn. That is the job of the world. They are the ones who point an accusing finger at you. I don't. I am not condemning you but giving out salvation and forgiveness to you. I am waiting to clothe you with My garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness so that you are covered from your nakedness. Come to Me and flee from those who condemn you.'*

These gracious words—'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more'—touched the woman deeply, and she turned no longer to the works of the flesh.

So, the Lord God does not condemn us but rather intercedes for us (Rom 8:34). The scriptures say that it is our own heart that condemns us: *For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God* (1 Jn 3:20-21).

When you walk after the flesh, and have committed some sin, you feel so condemned in your heart before God. God does not condemn. The Holy Spirit brings a conviction and your own heart condemns you. You feel so unworthy and unwanted before God. Condemnation makes you emotionally vulnerable and the devil capitalizes on this situation by throwing fiery darts at you, magnifying your sense of condemnation, sinfulness, unworthiness, and uselessness.

I was once preaching in a church in Singapore. After the time of ministry was over, a couple came to see me for

personal prayer. The woman said, *'Brother, I was the woman for whom you gave the word of knowledge concerning someone feeling condemned.'* She then began to weep and pour out her heart of how she had walked in the flesh and had been feeling so condemned and unwanted by God. When she calmed down, I prayed very compassionately for her, beseeching the Lord for His mercy and grace.

The Lord showed me that she was not condemned and unwanted before Him. Instead, she was beautiful in His sight. As soon as I told her what the Lord had shown me, her face lighted up. She realized with great joy that God had not condemned her, and that God actually never stopped loving her. She then committed her life to walk in the Spirit. Three weeks later, I received a beautiful letter from her testifying how her life had been transformed from condemnation to righteousness by not walking in the flesh but in the Spirit.

The works of the flesh, indeed, produce condemnation, guilt, and fear, which become barriers to approaching God. You feel so condemned when you open the Bible to read. You feel so condemned, so unclean, when you kneel down to pray before a Holy God. You feel like a hypocrite when you counsel others to overcome sin and not do the works of the flesh.

But, if you walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will produce in you:

### *1. Righteousness*

#### **ROMANS 8:4**

*4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

## 2. Boldness to stand and come before God

### **HEBREWS 4:16**

*16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

### **HEBREWS 10:19**

*19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

## 3. Confidence in prayer—that God will always answer your prayers.

### **1 JOHN 3:21-22**

*21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.*

*22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

## C. Filthiness

Two cockroaches decided to visit their favorite posh restaurant at the city center. While the larger of the two was busy eating his meal, the smaller one said, *You wouldn't have believed the house I just left. It was spotlessly clean. The lady was a cleanaholic. Everything was sparkling and shiny – the sink, the counter, the floors.*

Irritated by being disturbed by such non-roachy environment, the other roach stopped his munching, looked with some annoyance at his friend and said, *Do you have to talk like this while I am eating?*

We could learn a lesson or two from these cockroaches turning away from filthy living to a life of cleanliness.

**2 CORINTHIANS 7:1**

*1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

*Filthiness*, Greek *molusmos* – a stain; i.e. immorality. It also means ‘a soiling, defilement’; and *Defilement*, Greek *moluno* – to besmear -as with mud or filth, to befoul, to soil. It also denotes ‘unholy, unclean, to defile.’

*“Filthiness” is therefore moral impurity as a result of the defilement of something previously clean.*

The works of the flesh produce filthiness that defiles our spiritual garments before God’s sight (Jude 23). Filthiness is also the result of unclean and corrupt speech and conversations (Col 3:8).

The apostle Paul, through the Holy Spirit, exhorts believers to reject irreverent legends which are profane and impure, godless fictions, mere grandmothers’ tales which are silly myths, and to avoid all empty, vain, useless and idle talks which cause defilement and lead people unto ungodliness. (1 Tim 4:7; 2 Tim 2:16) The Lord Jesus too warns regarding the speaking of idle words: *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment* (Matt 12:36-37).

The works of the flesh produce the filthiness that defiles us before God’s eyes. But if you walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit produces:

## 1. Holiness

### **1 THESSALONIANS 3:13**

*13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*

## 2. Godliness

### **1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8**

*7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.*

*8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

## **HOW TO REFUSE TO WALK IN THE FLESH**

In order to successfully walk in the Spirit, and come to a place where you can make a determined effort not to walk in the flesh, you need to understand the evolution of sin. You should understand the root of sin and how it evolves to eventually cause a believer to commit sin.

For 8 years, Sally – a Burmese python, had been the Romero family pet. The python was only a one foot long when they bought her. But eventually Sally grew and grew until she reached a length of 11 feet and weighed 80 pounds. One day Sally turned on 15-year old Derek, strangling the teenager until he died of suffocation. When the police to investigate the teenager's death they found the snake aggressive, hissing and reacting.

Sin is like the snake. When a sin is first entertained and enters our lives, we think of it as harmless. Yet it doesn't stay harmless or small. Sin has a way of growing. Many times we fool ourselves into thinking that we could handle it, but then it begins to handle us. And it will always lead to death (Jas 1:15).

## THE EVOLUTION OF SIN

### **ROMANS 7:5-13**

*5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.*

*6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.*

*7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*

*8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.*

*9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.*

*10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.*

*11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.*

*12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*

From these scriptures we can deduce seven things:

1. In the beginning, there *arises sinful impulses and passions* (v 5).
2. Sin, seeing that it was good, then expresses itself by *arousing and stimulating all kinds of forbidden desires and lusts* (v 8).
3. Sin became *alive and lived again* (v 9).
4. Sin, seizing the opportunity and getting hold of, *beguiles, entraps, and cheats* (v 11).
5. Using deception, sin then *kills* (v 11).
6. Sin, that made itself look good, now *works death and manifests itself* (v 13).
7. Sin, now appears itself plainly as *immeasurably sinful and extremely malignant* (v 13).

This is the evolution of sin. A person does not just commit sin instantly but gets there via steps 1-5. If a person still persists, continues, and indulges in sin, then steps 6 and 7 are activated, at which point he does not consider sin as sin anymore and his heart is closed to all the convictions of the Holy Spirit.

Laughing gas - *nitrous oxide*, is used to reduce pain during surgery. Because it produces insensitivity to physical suffering, its effects though, are usually pleasurable. Patients under its influence have been known to sing and laugh hysterically before losing consciousness. Likewise, a person's deceitful heart can anesthetize him to the effects of sin.



There was once a trader in Arabia who was traveling across the Sahara desert. When night fell, he decided to pitch a tent and rest rather than travel in the cold. When he had pitched the tent, he tied his camel by the side and went to sleep. As he was lying comfortably in his cozy, warm tent, he suddenly thought of his poor camel having to spend the night out in the cold. He decided to let the camel rest its head inside the tent.

Soon the trader was fast asleep. The camel, enjoying the comfort and warmth of the tent, thought to itself, *'My front legs are feeling somewhat cold, let me bring them inside a little.'* After some time, it moved its left leg in. A little later the camel, now fully enjoying the cozy warmth of the tent, thought, *'Why not bring myself completely in and rest comfortably?'* So, it moved its massive body in, pushing the trader to a small corner of the tent. This is how sin moves in stealthily into our lives.

*Dr Paul Brand* was the first medical authority to say that the loss of fingers and toes from leprosy is due mainly to infection and injury. He showed that major tissue damage occurs because the patient loses the warnings of pain. Leprosy attacks the central nervous system and causes a deadening and numbing effect of pain. Likewise, sin, like leprosy has a numbing effect. It deadens our sense of touch with God, and lets us live without an awareness of the "injury and infection" that slowly damages our soul.

Just like the saying *'Rome was not built in a day,'* sin does not appear overnight. Before sin can even manifest itself as sinful impulses, you could do something about it to prevent it from manifesting. What should you do?

Consider a withered tree. Before you could see the outward manifestation of a withered tree, its roots are already rotting under the ground. The roots are the first to decay and die, gradually becoming unable to absorb water and nutrients to sustain the rest of the tree. When this happens, leaves begin to wither and decay; fruits begin to rot, and finally the whole tree dries up, withering from the roots upwards. A tree withers because the supply lines are cut off. Likewise, you must cut off the supply lines that cause you to walk in the flesh.

I was once very troubled about people having relapses of sickness and disease after being healed by the power of Christ in my meetings. So I took this matter before the Lord and asked Him where the problem was. Many times the fault cannot be just the people's unbelief or lack of faith (although sometimes it is one of the factors), because they are coming with all the faith that they have.

The fault cannot be the lack of faith on the preacher's part (although lack of faith, self-confidence and not relying on the Holy Spirit, and poor understanding of the workings of God's healing power can all be factors), because the preacher too is praying with faith for Christ's healing powers. *'So, where is the problem, Lord?'* I implored.

The Lord Jesus answered my question in a vision. I saw a huge tree standing tall and strong in the middle of a road. The Lord asked me, *'If you do not want the tree there, what should you do?'* I answered the Lord that I would cut the tree down. The Lord replied, *'After the tree is cut down, would it grow again?'* After careful thought I answered that it would.

*'How could the tree grow again?' the Lord asked. So I answered, 'It's because its roots are still in the ground alive, so it could grow again.' The Lord asked again, 'So if you do not want the tree to manifest itself again, what should you do then?' I said, 'Lord, the roots need to be completely cut off.' 'That's the answer to your question, son. If you would get to the root cause of sicknesses as revealed by My Spirit, you can then get them healed and they could stay healed. Deal with the roots in peoples' lives, so that you could help them be set free.'*

Ever since applying this principle, I witnessed more results in the ministry. Likewise, you must lay the axe to the roots that cause you to work the works of the flesh. The Bible says, *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases* (Prov 26:20). Likewise, let us learn to stop supplying wood – making provisions for the lust of the flesh to consummate, so that the fires of the flesh may not rule us.

There are two ways to stop walking in the flesh, and not doing the works of the flesh any more.

## *1. Don't Let Sin Reign Anymore*

### **ROMANS 6:12-14**

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

*13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

*14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

*St. Augustine* (354-430), the well-known theologian once recounted an incident that happened in his youth. There was a pear tree near their vineyard, laden with fruit. One stormy night a Augustine with a few friends set out to rob it. They stole a huge load of pears - not to feast themselves, but to throw them to the pigs.

They were nice pears, but it was not the pears that Augustine and his friends coveted. They stole them simply to become a thief - the desire to steal was awakened simply by the prohibition of stealing. Human nature is inherently rebellious.

In Romans 6:1, the apostle Paul asks a question, '*Shall we continue in sin?*' Certainly not. Because when you accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and were baptized, you were baptized into the death of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 6:3).

But why is it that even when Christians are baptized into the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, sin still reigns in them? Many Christians who have not totally surrendered their lives are still living in a condition somewhat like a *spiritual coma*. When a person is in coma, he is not dead. He is alive and but is sustained by life-support systems. After some time, perhaps weeks and even months, the person awakens and he is back to his normal self again. Nothing fundamental seems to have changed.

Likewise, your being in a coma or being alive unto the death of Jesus is dependent on you not allowing sin to rule and reign anymore (Rom 6:6).

When the old man was crucified, sin has had been made ineffective and inactive for evil. So, sin may no

longer reign. When you were baptized into the death of Christ, you have been freed and delivered from the power of sin. So being dead to and delivered from sin, your relation to sin has been severed.

How could we then not allow sin not to reign and exert its influence and dominion over us? There are two ways.

### *1. Maintain an unbroken fellowship with God.*

A humorous greeting card showed a terribly thin cow wandering in a barren desert. The skinny cow was meant to mean “where nonfat milk comes from.” The logic of the cartoon obviously is unscientific. Nonfat milk is not produced by nonfat cows. D. L. Moody commented on this: “Most people talk cream and live skim milk.”

If our hearts are spiritually underfed we will produce “skim-milk” spirituality devoid of power. Our lips may utter spiritually sounding words in prayer, worship and declaration of the promises of God, giving the impression of “top-grade cream.” But the reality is revealed by what is consistently produced in our lives.

How can we live cream and not just talk fat? Consider King David’s prayer: *Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression* (Ps 19:12-13). He was very honest with himself and before God in prayer. King David knew that his strength to overcome sin and weaknesses in his life lies in him maintaining an unbroken relationship with God.

## *2. Don't let sin reign in your body.*

### **ROMANS 6:12**

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

Guam is crawling with snakes. Slithering brown tree snakes are killing the birds of the beautiful island nation and threatening the citizens' way of life. The people do want to keep the snakes out.

These snakes are not native to Guam. They came as stowaways on airplanes from Micronesia, and they have multiplied by the thousands. Known for their voracious appetites, the snakes have wiped out nine of the island's eleven native bird species. They also threaten other islands with whom Guam trades.

Like the snakes posing a danger to Guam, so are our sins a danger to us if we allow them to reign in our lives. If left unchecked the power of the sins can grow, multiply and eventually totally dominate us like the snakes in Guam.

Do not let – put to death the sins that seek to control and ruin our lives.

## *3. Do not yield your body to sin but to God.*

### **ROMANS 6:13,19**

*13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

*19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*

There was once a young man who had a problem with a pornographic imagination. He was practicing this sin before he got saved. After his old man had been crucified, his old sin tried to reign in him again. Even when he was in church, when he looked at girls, he visualized their nakedness beneath their clothes. Finally, in order to overcome this so that he did not yield his body to sin, he began visualizing the Lord Jesus suffering and dying on the cross.

Whenever his pornographic impulses surfaced, he would immediately visualize and meditate the Lord Jesus on the cross. This struggle went on for a long time. But eventually his unclean urges totally disappeared and he had complete mastery and victory. This young man did not allow sin to reign in him. He did this by yielding his body to the crucified Savior.

Learn to walk in the Spirit by doing the works that are consistent with and in conformance to a Spirit-filled Life.

**ROMANS 13:14**

*14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

Do not make provision for the flesh to indulge in sin. Put a stop to the thoughts and evil cravings of your physical nature to gratify the flesh.

There was once a severely overweight believer who was very rightly concerned with his obesity. The doctor advised him to stay away from fattening foods, which included cakes, something he deeply craved. He decided to heed the doctor's advice and give up his craving for cakes.

Some time passed. One day, as he was driving to church, he stopped by a stationery shop for something. Beside it was a bakery. As soon as he saw the bakery, saliva began to gush out of his mouth. But suddenly, remembering the doctor's advice, he took authority over this craving and commanded in the name of Jesus for it to stop. But he could never stop his mind from imagining how beautiful those cakes looked and how delicious they were.

Finally, he decided to solve this problem by prayer: *'Lord, I will make one turn around the block, if there was an empty parking lot in front of the bakery, I'll know that it's your will for me to eat some cakes today.'* So, he went around the block. When he came to the bakery, to his dismay, he found no empty lot. Thinking that in the mouth of two or three witnesses everything must be established, he prayed again fervently and circled his car once more.

To his dismay again, there was no vacant spot. On the third round, he finally found a vacant spot. Immediately he cried out, *'Praise the Lord. God has shown me that it was His perfect will for me to eat some cakes.'* Some Christians are like this man. They use the name of God as a justification to gratify their flesh.

Do not make provisions for the works of the flesh. Cut off the supplies. When the Allied Forces were planning to attack Iraq during the Gulf War in 1991, they first cut off



all food supplies to Iraq. An economic embargo was leveled against Iraq. With their supplies cut off, the country was paralyzed. Likewise, when you cut off the supplies and do not make provision for the flesh, the cravings and desires of the flesh will wither and eventually die.

But there is a great deception among Christians that since they are in Christ the *"making of provisions for the flesh"* will not harm them. This is playing with fire.

About 25 feet up in the maple tree behind Michael's house hung a gray, con-shaped object about 10 inches long. Michael decided to get closer to find out what it was. Armed with a long fishing pole and standing on top of a barrel, he steered the opening at the bottom of the object. And then it happened. Like a streak of lightning, down came the hornets one by one. Michael sprawled on the ground. Soon both his eyes were swollen red and shut and he had large bumps on his forehead. He just faced a first-hand attack from a swarm of white-faced hornets.

Such is too with sin. The way to keep from being strung is to stay far away from it. Don't try to see how close you can get to sin without getting burnt. Rather, you must see how far you can stay away.

Suppose there was a person who had indulged in sexual sins before he got saved. After being born again he began to walk in newness of life. He no longer committed sexual sins but continued to view pornographic material. When questioned, he answered that since he was in Christ, he was a new creation and had been set free from sin, so this act would not affect him.

But what he did not realize was that instead of feeding his Spirit man, he was feeding his flesh. His mind became carnal and fleshly because it was continuously feeding and meditating on pornography. He began to fantasize about sex. His fleshly cravings returned because he opened the door for the devil to tempt him.

He did not cut off the supply lines. He was still making provisions for lust. The Bible says that a person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires of passion and lust (Jas 1:14-15). When an evil desire is conceived it gives birth to sin; when sin is matured it results in death.

Locate and recognize what your weaknesses are, what causes you to stumble in your walking in the Spirit. Cut off the supplies that feed those weaknesses. Do not put yourself in situations where you are vulnerable to falling into sin. If Lucifer, one of the mighty Archangels (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17) can fall into sin, should we be any less careful in our walk?

Let us now look at how two Bible heroes fell into carnality because they made provisions for the flesh.

## SAMSON

### ***JUDGES 13:3-5***

*3 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.*

*4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.*

*5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb;*

Samson was a Nazirite from birth. A Nazirite is a person separated unto God, being holy. Samson was a mighty man on whom the Spirit of the Lord descended, empowering him to do superhuman feats. But he had a weakness in his flesh. He had a weakness for women and openly exhibited it by fooling around with a prostitute (Judges 16).

Satan found Samson's weakness and kept targeting it until Samson became crushed under it. It needs to be mentioned, though briefly, that most Christians think the devil knows all about them. It is not true. The devil does not know all about you—at least not until you reveal yourself to him. If it were true that the devil knows all about everything and everybody, why then did he,

1. Ask Eve if God told them anything about eating?
2. Make Delilah find out about Samson's strength?

The devil knows some things about you after studying you. He lays traps and temptations to probe your weaknesses and strengths. If you do not display your weaknesses, he goes nuts, not knowing how to trap you successfully. So, fear not the devil, whose days have been numbered and fast approaching.

Samson, fat with the lusts of the flesh, was so weak and insensitive to the Holy Spirit. He could not discern the three warnings that came with the enemy's plan to completely destroy him (Judg 16:6-14).

Satan exploited Samson's weakness by supplying the means to fulfilling his carnal desires. Samson made himself vulnerable when he first opened himself up, allowing this weakness into his life. He took the call and the anointing of God for granted. He thought no matter how much he indulged in sin by feeding upon the lusts of the flesh, the Holy Spirit would always be there whenever he needed Him.

He miscalculated the ways of God. One of saddest scriptures in the Bible is: *And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him* (Judg 16:20).

Because of his immersion into the lusts and works of the flesh instead of the works of God as a Judge over Israel, Samson did not know and did not even realize that the Lord had departed from him. Judges 16: 23-31 records the tragic end of a mighty man of God. This was not God's will for Samson. But Samson kept on making provision for his flesh, which led to his downfall.

Pelicans, with their huge beaks, are strange-looking birds. But Ray saw one that was crisscrossed, as if someone had pulled the upper and lower parts in opposite directions. The pelican was a pathetic sight. Pelicans usually zoom headfirst from a considerable height into a school of fish to obtain their meals. Ray then wondered if this particular bird had seen such a tempting catch that it dove into water that was too shallow for it and hit bottom.

Whether this was the actual thing that took place or otherwise, it surely symbolizes the consequences and after-

effects of bad choices. The effects then become the scars of sin on our soul and spirit. Remember the warning from the Bible: *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life* (Gal 6:8).

## DAVID

The Bible records in vivid detail the great sin which King David, the man after God's own heart, committed by making provisions for the lusts of the flesh.

### **2 SAMUEL 11:1-4**

*1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

*2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.*

*3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"*

*4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.*

We will analyze this incident scripture by scripture and you will find the steps that led to King David committing this abominable sin before God's eyes. Sadly, it all started by him making provisions for the flesh.

**Step 1.** At an occasion when it was expected for a king to lead his army to war, King David remained back in Jerusalem instead (v.1). This act shows his laziness and carelessness. He was not in the place where he should be. If you are found in a place or situation where you should not be, you open yourself to temptation.

**Step 2.** Since, he was idling in his palace, he went for a stroll on the roof-top and saw a woman bathing naked (v. 2). It was not David's fault when he came across a naked woman bathing. But he sinned when he prolonged his gaze and began to fantasize, whether she was lovely to look at or otherwise. This is the lust of the eyes.

**Step 3.** The fantasizing resulting from the lust of the eyes compelled David to enquire after who the woman was. This is enquiry into sin (v. 3).

**Step 4.** Even after knowing full well that she was another man's wife, David sent for her and committed adultery with her. Why did he do that? The provisions for the flesh awoke evil desires in him, filling him with sexual fantasies, and leading him into adultery, which is an act of sin (v. 4).

What was the root cause to the sin of David? He made provision for the lust of the flesh by not being in the place where he should be. He opened the door to the sin of adultery by making provisions for the flesh. One sin then led to another. After committing adultery, he schemed the death of *Uriah*, the woman's husband. After *Uriah's* death, he made *Uriah's* widow his wife.

Do not make provisions for the flesh. Do not feed it. Your life and walk must conform to standards spelt out in the Word of God. Habitually watching movies with sexual

content is making provision for the lust of the flesh, paving the way to committing sexual sins.

So, live a life that is in consistent with and in conformance to a Spirit-filled life by putting on the virtues of a Christ-life (Col 3:10). 'Putting on' signifies practicing or doing.

What are the things that you must put away and put on so that you do not make provisions for the flesh? Let's hear what the scriptures say.

***EPHESIANS 4:25, 28-29, 31-32***

*25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.*

*28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.*

*29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

*31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.*

*32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

Let us also consider the same truth from the Epistle of Colossians as revealed by the apostle Paul through the Holy Spirit.

***COLOSSIANS 3:8-9, 12-14***

*8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,*

*12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;*

*13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

*14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

So, put on the new nature, created in God's image in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24), and do not make provisions for the flesh.

Learn to walk in the Spirit by keeping your eyes on the promises (the Word) of God rather than on circumstances.

### **HEBREWS 11:1**

*1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith is the substance of things hoped for. The word *substance*, *hupostasis* means 'the assurance, confidence, confirmation, conviction of reality.

*Faith* then is the assurance, the confidence, the conviction of the reality of things that are perceived (in the mind) which are not revealed to the physical senses as yet.

Faith reaches out and claims before the eye sees the evidence or result. Did not our Lord Jesus say that we should believe that whatever we are praying for is already granted, even before we receive it (Mk 11:24)?



Faith is the ladder that connects the natural realm with the spiritual realm. It's only by faith that you can touch God, who is in the spiritual realm. Faith will translate into reality in the natural realm the things hoped for, which are in the spiritual realm.

As long as you always keep your eyes on the promises of God, you will not get into the fleshly arena of carnal emotions. When you stand on the Word, the promises of God, you will not be moved regardless of contradicting or adverse circumstances.

Consider the patriarch Abraham for an example. God promised Abraham a son when he was 90 years old. Naturally it was impossible for Sarah to give birth (Gen 18:11). But Abraham believed God (Rom 4:3). The scriptures say:

**ROMANS 4:17-21**

*17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;*

*18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."*

*19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.*

*20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*

*21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

Abraham kept his eyes on the promises of God, disregarding what his five senses were telling him. His senses were screaming at him, *'Hey old man. Can't you get that it's impossible for you to father?'* Don't you hear like that many times? But Abraham did not waver in unbelief or distrust, nor did he doubt the promise of God. He rested in the assurance that God was able, mighty, and faithful to keep His Word (Isa 55:11) and would do what He had promised.

I once read a miracle testimony how an American family stood on the promises of God, despite the contrary natural circumstances.

The head of the family, *Gary*, was diagnosed with stomach cancer and advanced testicular cancer. Doctors painted a grim picture to his wife, *Jean*, that without chemotherapy treatments, Gary's chances of survival were slim. The doctors also told Jean that because of the chemotherapy side-effects, they may never have any children. Because of the seriousness of Gary's condition, surgery was essential, which meant that he really could never father any children. So, after getting their consent, the surgeons removed some of the cancerous organs and Gary was put on chemotherapy treatment.

Gary and his wife, however, both believed that God had promised them a family with children in His Word. Gary therefore purposed in his heart that he was not going to die from cancer or being deprived of fathering children. He determined that through the Word of God, he was going to resist the disease.

Even after the initial chemotherapy treatments, the cancer reoccurred. So Gary had to undergo chemotherapy

again and again, which resulted in more severe side-effects. Though discouraged, Gary decided to believe in God's Word, regardless of the adverse circumstances. Gary and Jean were very concerned, wondering if the cancer was arrested, whether Gary could indeed still father any children. Moreover, even if Jean were to conceive, whether the baby would be genetically normal.

In the natural, Gary and Jean could never become parents. But having no choice, they decided to believe the Word for a family. They stood steadfastly on God's Word. They felt their faith faltering at moments, being human, for the enemy would condemn them, making them feel unworthy, hoping to hinder them from receiving a miraculous healing from God. However, they persisted in standing on God's Word despite their human weakness, even though they did not see any immediate change in Gary's poor physical condition.

About a year after Gary's treatment, Jean discovered that she was pregnant. Doctors advised abortion, fearing genetic defects. Jean refused to be intimidated and believed God, confessing and standing on the promises in God's Word. By and by, God blessed them with twins, a boy and girl, who were perfectly normal. Gary became cancer free and God gave them another 'double-portion anointing': Jean conceived again and gave birth to another set of twins.

Their persistence in trusting God's Word paid off. To Gary and Jean, it was a daily walk of not giving in to what they saw or felt but standing firmly on God's promises.

Does not the Bible encourage us not to look at our circumstances?

**HABAKKUK 3:17-19**

*17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls –*

*18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

*19 The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.*

The prophet of God declares here that though all things might seem negative and contrary, yet one could rejoice, delight, and hope in God because God is still alive and in control of everything. Even when everything falls apart, keep your eyes on the promises of God and not on your circumstances. God is able to rebuild and restore what you have lost. But if you keep your eyes on the circumstances and rely on the senses, you will 'go under'—'not over'—your problems. The devil will drag you into the arena of fleshly emotions and defeat you. I urge you to stay in the realm of faith with God on your side.

Walk in the Spirit—keep not your eyes on outward circumstances or you will be ruled by the flesh in the arena of carnal emotions. Stand firm on the promises of God in the realm of faith that you may have victory at all times.

## CHAPTER 6

# *Crucify the Flesh*

The special teams coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers may not have realized all he was saying in response to the firing of the head coach: *I guess it had to come to this*, said the special teams coach, *For anything to grow, something else has to die. I guess the departure of the head coach will help the Bucs grow.*

Consider this universal principle. For acres of corn to grow, trees and prairie grass had to die. For cities to grow, fields and farmlands had to give way to concrete and steel. For believers to grow in Christ, old habits, desires, and way of thinking must die. We must learn to put to death the warring members of our flesh so that the Holy Spirit can create Christ-like virtues in us.

### **ROMANS 8:12-13**

*12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

*13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

There are two words used for *crucify* in the Greek language.

1. *Mortify*, Greek *thanatos* means *to put to death or kill* (literally or figuratively).
2. *Crucify*, Greek *stauroo* signifies *the putting off of the flesh with its passions and lusts*. It is the act of the believer himself who takes responsibility, owning up to the death of Christ, and putting to death the deeds of the body, which are the passions and lusts of the flesh (Rom 8:13).

Through the Spirit of God, we have to habitually put to death and bring to extinction the wild deeds of passions and lusts prompted by the flesh.

What are we to mortify? The Bible answers this question beautifully as: *So kill (deadens, deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God) (Col 3:5, AMP).*

Sin should not be allowed to lurk in any hidden corner of our life. Instead it must be put to death and its power over us destroyed. We must not tolerate sins but rather to utterly destroy them.

In Galatians 2:20, the apostle Paul writes: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* The apostle Paul says that he had been crucified with

## Crucify the Flesh

Christ and therefore shared in His crucifixion. The life he subsequently lived, he lived by the faith of the Son of God. What then is *the faith of the Son of God*? It is that the finished work of Christ is all sufficient enough for the total redemption of man's spirit, soul and body.

When we start recognizing this truth and receiving it deep in our spirit, then the Holy Spirit's power to help us to mortify, crucify, and put to death the works of the flesh will flow through us. We can then rest by faith in Christ Jesus on His finished work.

After having crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts, then the world too, must be crucified to us and us to the world (Gal 6:14). The devil will always offer us the world on a silver platter as he offered it to the Lord Jesus while tempting Him in the wilderness (Matt 4:8).

How the world can entice us, you may ask.

### **1 JOHN 2:15-17**

*15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*16 For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.*

*17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

A crane was wading in a stream and looking for snails to eat when a beautiful swan landed nearby. The crane had never seen a swan before, so he asked, *What are you? I'm a swan*, came the reply. *And where did you come*

*from, the crane enquired. Heaven, the swan answered, and he eagerly spoke of a city of pure gold with jasper walls and pearly gates. At that point the crane interrupted, Are there snails in heaven? No, I'm afraid not, the swan said. Then I don't care to go there, the crane stated decisively. I like snails!*

Most Christians think like the crane in this old fable. They are so bound by the things of the world. The world consists of three things:

1. the *lust of the flesh*
2. the *lust of the eyes*
3. the *pride of life*

The crucifying of sins happens continuously throughout one's lifetime (1 Cor 15:31). If we refuse to walk in the flesh but instead are determined to walk constantly in the Spirit, we will become like the Lord Jesus (1 Jn 3:2-3).

A young woman lived in a house where she was very unhappy. She often grumbled and complained to her friends how difficult it was for her to stay in the house. She always blamed her parents and her siblings for her discontent and planned to move out.

One day, her friend found her graceful and happy. Gone was her usual glum expression. Her eyes sparkled. There was a spring in her step. When asked by her friend for her sudden change in attitude she exclaimed, Things are still the same at home. But I have been changed inside me.



## Crucify the Flesh

That woman's outlook in life was brighter and glorious because she experienced a change of heart. We too will experience a new change of attitude in mind and heart when we learn to crucify our flesh.

## CRUCIFYING THE FLESH

In order to learn how to crucify the flesh, we must look to the Lord Jesus.

### **1 PETER 2:21**

*21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

### **HEBREWS 12:2**

*2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The Lord Jesus suffered on the cross so that He could overcome the power of sin. Likewise, the Bible says that he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Pe 4:1-2).

Just as the Lord Jesus endured the cross, despising shame and overcoming the power of death and the grave, likewise we can become more than conquerors if we learn the hidden principles of crucifying the flesh.

Let us examine the implements used to crucify the Lord Jesus Christ and the people responsible for His death

on the cross and derive some valuable principles for living a victorious crucified life.

### 1. **Crown of Thorns** = *Put away evil imaginations*

#### **MARK 15:17**

*17 And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head,*

The Bible records that a crown of thorns was put on the head of the Lord Jesus. The nasty thorns cut and pierced the head of the Lord Jesus in many places, and He suffered excruciating pain in His forehead and great agony in His mind. He went through that agony so that through His power we could crucify the flesh by the putting away of an evil mind full of unclean imaginations and thoughts.

In the wilderness, the devil tempted the Lord Jesus by sowing seeds of unbelief and doubt in His mind. But the Lord never for even a second entertained those evil suggestions and thoughts. Instead He put them away with the Word.

The mind is the farmland where the devil plants his seeds. In the parable of the wheat and tares, the Lord Jesus said that "*his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat*" (Matt 13:24-30). Before murders, adulteries, fornications, and thefts are carried out, they are usually first planned, thought out, and premeditated in the mind (Matt 15:19).

There was a young boy in North India who was arrested by the police for murdering several very young people. The puzzled police questioned him about his

motive for committing those murders, since he came from a very reputable family and his father was a prominent man in the society.

The boy answered, *'Sir, my father is never at home and always away on business or to attend political events. My mother is never at home too, busy with social clubs and community services. Both of them never had time for me. I was always left alone in the house. Feeling bored staying in the house, I used to go to the slaughter house nearby and watch the butchers slaughtering animals.'*

*Every day after school, I used to spend hours just watching how the slaughtered animals struggled in death. Sometimes, when the butchers want to take some rest or have a cup of tea, they would ask me to look after their shop. When people came to buy meat, I would cut those huge chunks of meat into pieces. One day, as I was doing that, a thought came to me how it would be like if I slaughtered a human being. I decided there and then to slaughter a person. After I did once, I liked it, and so I began to kill more people.'*

Evil imaginations of the mind lead to physical acts of the works of the flesh. Do not give place to the devil by meditating upon evil imaginations (Eph 4:27). The scriptures in fact command us to take strong action to rid our minds of such thoughts: *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ* (2 Cor 10:4-5).

## 2. **Cross** = *Be humble, willing and obedient to God*

The Cross is the most important instrument in the crucifixion. When the Lord Jesus bore it along the streets of Jerusalem, He knew that it was upon the Cross that He would be crucified. On December 25, 1983, the Lord permitted me to see this entire event in a trance vision.

I saw the Lord Jesus struggling with this huge cross along the streets (Isa 53:7). While praying in the garden of Gethsemane, in a vision He saw the bitter cup of all the sufferings that He was to go through. Nevertheless, He humbly and willingly submitted Himself to the will of God (Mk 14:35-36). Likewise, you must first be humble, willing, and obedient to the will and ways of God. The flesh always declares, *'I want my way. Don't interfere in my life.'*

What is the Cross? The Cross signifies *humility, willingness, and obedience*. *"Deny and renounce the things and ways of the world and follow Me in humility with a willing and obedient heart,"* says the Lord.

Christians have a wrong understanding about the Cross. Some Christian wives consider their unsaved and unloving husbands as their Cross. Some Christian husbands consider their unsaved and nagging wives as their Cross. Some people consider their jobs, children, sicknesses, and unpleasant circumstances as their Cross. But the Cross is a matter of the heart. It is a heart attitude of renouncing the things and lusts of the world and to humble oneself before God, being willing and obedient to conform to His ways.

### **3. Soldiers who carried out the crucifixion** = *Surrender yourself to God*

In the Gospels, we find that the soldiers play a very prominent role in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. We first read of them in Matthew 26:47, when together with a great multitude they came to arrest the Lord Jesus. Though He could have prayed to Father God to be delivered by twelve legions of angels, yet surrendered Himself submissively (Matt 26:53).

We next read of the soldiers at the Praetorium of Pilate, where they dishonored the Lord Jesus by stripping Him naked (Matt 27:28). Without mercy, they also smote, spat at, and slapped the Lord Jesus. When you surrender yourself to God, the heart of your flesh will be stripped bare to expose its deceitfulness, so that you could crucify it. Because the Lord Jesus had surrendered Himself to the torture, He held His peace.

Finally we find the soldiers at Golgotha, where they crucified the Lord Jesus (Jn 19:18). The Lord Jesus could not crucify Himself; He needed the soldiers to do that job. All that the Lord did was to surrender Himself submissively to their purposes. Likewise, you must surrender yourself to God to crucify the flesh.

The flesh craves for honor, glory, fame, and recognition. It just simply lusts after all these and they need to be surrendered at the Feet of God, like the twenty-four elders in heaven, who ceaselessly worship God, acknowledging the greatness and majesty of God's reign over their lives by casting their crowns at His Feet in absolute surrender (Rev 4:10).

Let us consider some biblical heroes who surrendered their lives to God.

## **ABRAHAM**

God blessed Abraham and Sarah after almost 100 years of marriage with a beautiful son (Gen 18:10; 21:1-2). When Isaac was a young boy, God called Abraham to sacrifice him (Gen 22:1-12). It was a great test for Abraham. God told Abraham to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah, which was a three days' journey from where they were camped.

During the three-day journey, Abraham must have greatly agonized in his soul. He must have thought of all the promises of God to make Isaac into a great nation. Why did not God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on one of the nearby mountains instead of one that was a three-day journey away? God wanted to test Abraham's heart during the three days.

Abraham was made to see his own heart—his desires, aspirations, and hopes for Isaac. He needed to see whether he had placed Isaac above God. When he finally submissively surrendered himself to God by allowing his flesh to be crucified, God blessed him.

## **JACOB**

All his life, Jacob was known as a cheater and deceiver. He always wanted pre-eminence in everything. Even at his birth, he wanted to come out before his brother. He was a very conceited, covetous, and self-reliant man. He was

## Crucify the Flesh

changed from a self-centered man to a Prince with God only when he surrendered himself totally to God.

In Genesis 32:24-28, you will read that he wrestled with an angel the whole night through, not wanting to lose. But the angel touched his thigh and his hip fell out of joint, which was a symbol of his flesh being crucified. He then stopped wrestling, and surrendered himself to God. When he allowed his flesh to be crucified, he was transformed by God from a supplanter, schemer, and swindler into a Prince, a man of God.

## MARY

She was still a virgin when the Archangel Gabriel came and told her that she would become pregnant with a child (Lk 1:27-35). She was shocked. But she surrendered herself to God (Lk 1:38). Though she went through the humiliation for being pregnant before marriage, she humbly submitted and surrendered herself to God.

Even Joseph, who was engaged to her, thought about annulling the marriage, and would have done so had not for the angelic intervention (Matt 1:20). Mary became blessed because she surrendered herself totally to God. She crucified her flesh by accepting her humiliation and the loss of her good name.

When the Lord Jesus surrendered Himself, He stripped Himself of all reputation and dignity (Phil 2:7). There was a certain Pastor in Canada who had his flesh crucified spiritually, having to suffer a loss of reputation and dignity unjustly. The assistant pastor in his church was

living in adultery and his sins were to be exposed, likely resulting in a dismissal from the church.

So he concocted a story and got the senior pastor's name smeared instead. The false rumor swept through the entire church and the assistant pastor somehow won the belief and sympathy of the whole church. The senior pastor was framed well and good. His downfall was certain.

But this senior pastor was a man of fierce integrity. He decided to set the records straight. He would write the church board a detailed letter listing all the misdeeds of his assistant. Having been brought up in a home where good family reputation was foremost, he would have nothing of this scandal. He would rather die than bring reproach or disrepute to his family and name.

After having written the letter, he read through it again calmly. Then he heard the Holy Spirit say, *'Why are you writing this letter?'* He shot back immediately: *'Because my reputation is at stake! And I don't want the name of Jesus to be smeared!'* But instantly he felt chided in his spirit. He was doing this more for himself than for Jesus. The Holy Spirit very gently added, *'Jesus considered not His reputation'* (cp. Phil 2:7).

The Holy Spirit then reminded him how he had frequently fasted and prayed to be like the Lord Jesus. *'The first step to becoming like Jesus and attaining Christ likeness is to lay aside your reputation,'* breathed the Holy Spirit to this bewildered pastor.

The Lord Jesus, we all know, never found it necessary to defend His reputation. His self and will was completely surrendered to God. You too do not need to



defend yourself. God knows how to vindicate the righteous. Like the Lord Jesus, after a great struggle in the flesh for his reputation, this Canadian senior pastor finally surrendered it all at the Feet of God. And he was later vindicated and justified him in the eyes of all.

#### **4. Three Nails =** *Walk not in the ways and things of the world*

##### ***PSALMS 22:16***

*16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;*

When the Lord Jesus was crucified, three nails were used to nail His two hands separately and his legs together (Lk 23:33; 24:39; Jn 20:25). His hands stretched out on either side of Him was a picture and a declaration of total surrender.

Through the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, He was declaring to God that by His hands and feet being nailed, the children of God whose lives are hid with Him in God (Col 3:3), will have his resurrection power to crucify their flesh that they would not serve sin anymore (Rom 6:6).

What do the three nails represent?

##### ***1 JOHN 2:16***

*16 For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world.*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

1. The *First Nail* represents the *Lust of the Flesh*.
2. The *Second Nail* represents the *Lust of the Eyes*.
3. The *Third Nail* represents the *Pride of Life*.

It is written that the Lord Jesus went about everywhere (His feet going everywhere) publishing the good news and doing good by healing the oppressed (His hands were doing good by healing the sick) (Acts 10:38). What have your hands and feet been doing?

When the Lord Jesus faced the fiery darts of the devil at the wilderness, the temptations came also in these three forms:

1. The temptation for the *lust of the flesh* came through the temptation to turn stones into bread to feed His hunger (Matt 4:3).
2. The temptation for the *lust of the eyes* came through the temptation of possessing all the kingdoms of the world and its glory which the devil showed Him (Matt 4:8).
3. The temptation for the *pride of life* came through His being set upon a pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple by the devil (Lk 4:9).

Interestingly, those were the three types of temptations the devil brought—right from the beginning of time—to Eve. The temptations which the devil brought against Eve, which parallel those faced by the Lord Jesus and by every believer are:

1. The temptation of the *lust of the flesh* in the temptation to eat the fruit of the tree (Gen 3:1, 6).

## Crucify the Flesh

2. The temptation of the *lust of the eyes* in the deception that upon eating Eve would not die, for the fruit appeared pleasant and delightful to look at (Gen 3:4, 6).

3. The temptation of the *pride of life* in the deception that she would become like God. (Gen 3:5-6).

Let us look at these works of the flesh that we could use as the nails to crucify our flesh.

First, the *lust of the flesh*. This has already been explained in great depth all throughout this book.

Second, the *lust of the eyes*. The Lord Jesus said that if a man looks at a woman and lusts after her, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart (Matt 5:28). The eye is the entrance through which sin seeks to enter (Mk 6:22-23). So must we then pluck out our eyes when they cause us to lust (Mt 5:29)? It's not the eye that we must deal with but the lust—the desires, passions, and pleasures that must be crucified. Do not entertain them.

Third, the *pride of life*, which entices us through the riches and glamour of this world. The Lord Jesus said not to put our hearts on the riches of this world.

### **MATTHEW 6: 19-21**

19 *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

20 *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

The heart of Lot's wife was in the treasures, riches, and glamour of Sodom and Gomorrah. When the judgment of God came upon Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned back to see, probably greatly sorrowing after the burning of all her earthly treasures. She too suffered the judgment and became a pillar of salt.

John G Wendel and his sisters were some of the most miserly people of all time. Although they had received a huge inheritance from their parents, they spent very little of it and did all they could to keep their wealth for themselves. John was able to influence five out of his six sisters never to marry, and they lived together in the same house in New York City for 50 years.

When the last sister died in 1931, her estate was valued at more than \$100 million. Her only dress was one that she had made herself, and she wore it for 25 years. The Wendels had such a compulsion to hold on to their possessions that they lived like paupers. Even worse, they were the kind of person the Lord Jesus referred as: *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God,"* (Lk 12:21).

*So, "do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh [cravings for sensual gratification], and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself]. And the world passes away and disappears, and with it the forbidden cravings (the passionate desires, the lust) of it; but he who does the will of God and carries out His purposes in his life, abides (remains) forever" (1 Jn 2:15-17, AMP).*

## 5. **Side pierced by sword** = *Dying to self*

Finally, a soldier pierced the side of the Lord Jesus very close to His heart and immediately blood and water flowed out (Jn 19:34). Man's life is in the blood (Lev 17:11). So the Lord Jesus "died completely," for every bit of life flowed out from Him. His was a "complete death." Our death by crucifying our flesh will only be complete by dying to *ourselves*.

Read what the Lord Jesus said of the self:

### **LUKE 9:23-25**

*23 "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

*24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.*

*25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?*

What does the *self* want? How does it seek attention for itself?

1. *Wants to please itself* (Rom 15:1)
2. *Seeks his own, doesn't care for others* (1 Cor 10:24)
3. *Lives for itself* (2 Cor 5:15)
4. *Thinks about its own interests only* (Phil 2:4)
5. *Lives itself only* (2 Tim 3:2)

There is a pastor who lives in USA who experienced what dying to self was in a dramatic vision. He saw several angels standing around a coffin. As he walked closer to the coffin, he saw himself lying dead in it. He began to weep

because he also saw his love for his wife and children, his desire to go to college, and his ambition for a successful career, all lying dead in the coffin.

He saw his self-lying dead in that casket. He saw how powerful self was. It was fighting for survival, not wanting to be buried. Only he had the power—the will—to surrender to God. He could choose to die to self or choose to serve sin by living on for the self.

He decided finally to bury the coffin, and a tombstone was erected for his memory. As he was walking away he felt very sad. He had buried his love, his desires, his ambition. When he returned to mourn his death, he saw a huge angel standing at the graveyard, who turned to him and said, *Those who mourn the death of self in this place will never be used of God. When you mourn the death of self, feeling sorry and missing the things that you once loved, you open the doors for the devil to tempt you with those sins and weaknesses you had died to. You must forget what is behind.*

The complete death of one's self, the carnal desires of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, will give birth to an overflow of the Christ life in us. We should not tolerate a partial death of self. There must be a total death. There must be none of self-left. The Lord Jesus said: *Assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain* (Jn 12:24).

Unless and until the self-dies, the Christ life of resurrection power cannot flow in us. But when the self is completely put to death, crucified under the Feet of the Lord Jesus, we can also say together with the Apostle Paul: *I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared*

## Crucify the Flesh

*His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Gal 2:20, AMP).*

The 4,000-mile-long Great Wall of China was built to keep out invaders from the north. The first wall was constructed by Shi Huangdi (259-210 BC), the first emperor of China. But in 1644 AD the Manchus broke through the Great Wall and overran China. They did this by bribing a corrupt general of the Ming dynasty to open the gates.

Likewise, as Christians we must be vigilant that nothing breaches our spiritual defenses. The enemies of the Cross – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, can entice us, if we are not alert and watching, into a habitual life of sin.





## CHAPTER 7

# *Mind the Spirit's Things*

### **ROMANS 8:5**

*5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

I have discovered the root cause to why we commit sin. When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ we are born again in our Spirit but not in our soul and body. That's why we keep sinning. Let me give you a small example.

The Bible says when somebody slaps us on our right cheek we should offer our left cheek also (Matt 5:39). But in everyday life when somebody slaps us on our right cheek we want to punch their nose. Our first immediate reaction is to do that. Why is it like that? Simply because our mind is still the old mind; the soul is still the old man.

Our flesh, wants to retaliate. Yet we feel an inner witness not to do so. That is our spirit, because the spirit is born again. The spirit that has the seed of God inside it will behave like God it cannot sin (1 Jn 3:9). But the mind is more akin to the devil or the world. And our body is

programmed to return punch for punch – tooth for tooth (Lev 24:20; Matt 5:38).

Consider what the apostle Paul said: *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling* (Phil 2:12). The Apostle Paul was not contradicting himself with the Epistles of Romans and Galatians when he said work out our own salvation.

In those epistles, he stressed that salvation is only by grace and not by works (Rom 3:28; Gal 2:16). The important fact he was driving home in the Epistle of Philippians is: *our soul needs to be born again*. Our mind is the middleman between the two worlds, the spirit realm where God is and the devil is. Let us presume, for the sake of discussion, that God is on the right side of us and the devil on the left. Both of them want to get through us. They can do so only through the doorway of the mind.

The devil can never make us do anything. All he can do, which God also can do, is speak to us through the mind in the form of thoughts and suggestions. We decide who we want to follow and obey – the suggestions of the devil or the word of God. That is the reason why God did not stop Eve from eating the fruit at the garden in Eden. God could have stopped her there and then, but she was left to choose freely what she would do.

In order for us to have our life controlled by the Spirit we must mind the things of the Spirit. How do we do that?

## HOME ALONE

Everyone tends to sin when they are alone and think that nobody is watching. Nobody will sin openly in public. People disobey God in the secrecy of their mind and heart. Eve was tempted by the devil to eat the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:1-5). Why was she beguiled and enticed by the devil? In Genesis 2:22-24, we read of God fashioning a woman and bringing her to Adam: *"This is your wife; you are to take care of her; she is your flesh; you both are one."* They were to be together.

But soon after we see Eve straying from the presence of Adam, finding herself wandering alone in the garden (Gen 3:1). Or so she thought. The devil was there, and he wasted no time in beguiling her. In order for us not to sin we must not be alone. Perhaps this is the reason why the Bible says: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up* (Ecc 4:9-10).

I was praying one night in 1985 in Tuticorin, South India. I felt my spirit taken out my body. Carried by the Holy Spirit I flew across the town and I entered into a particular house. The house appeared dark. In the darkness I saw a man in one corner committing a sin in secret. He thought he was alone and nobody was watching him (*cp.* Jer 23:24). But I was there in the Spirit. I witnessed what he did.

We can read of a similar account in the Bible. The prophet Ezekiel was taken in the Spirit into the temple in Jerusalem. There he witnessed the elders of Israel committing sin, thinking nobody was watching them.

**EZEKIEL 8:11-17**

*11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up.*

*12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.'"*

*13 And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."*

*14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.*

*15 Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."*

*16 So He brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house; and there, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.*

*17 And He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit the abominations which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the branch to their nose.*

We also read of another incident in the Bible. The apostle Paul too described a similar experience: *"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among*

*the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed" (1 Cor 5:1-3).*

Once the Maharishi, an aged and great Seer-Prophet who lives on Mount Kailash in Tibet was at a certain house in Liverpool, UK, in the spirit. Two other saintly spirits were also there. The Maharishi later found out that the two spirits were the relatives of the man who lived in that house. Both of the relatives lived God-fearing lives during their life-time. Not only were the just and perfect spirits there but also an army of angels. They witnessed the man of the house committing a horrible sin. The spirits shed tears of bitter woe and grief at their unworthy relative.

One of the angels told the Maharishi: *"What this man has just done will be brought back to his memory after his death. He will, at that moment, repent and long for forgiveness but he will not receive it."* Does not the scriptures say: *Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) (Rom 2:15).*

On another occasion the Maharishi was at the house of a certain man in Pittsburg, USA. He was assailed by a strong temptation to sin. But instead of succumbing to the desires of the temptation this man constantly knelt down and prayed for divine help to overcome his evil passion. This fierce inner struggle was witnessed by several of his relatives who were present in the spirit. At long last this temptation was overcome through prayer, upon which the relatives and hundreds of angels who were also present

broke out in jubilant praises to glorify God, who had saved a soul from falling into sin.

We must never, ever, think that we are alone. No, you are never home alone!

## BE CONSCIOUS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

In order to mind the things of the Spirit, the believer needs to be conscious of the presence of God all the time in his life. All believers need to have four types of consciousness:

1. We need to be conscious that *God's presence* is with us at all times.

### **2 CHRONICLES 16:9a**

*9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*

### **HEBREWS 13:5**

*5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

The Bible says that God has engraved our image in His palm and is constantly looking at us (Isa 49:16). God's presence is everywhere and nobody is hidden from the eyes of the Lord (Ps 139:4-12).

2. We need to be conscious of the *Lord Jesus' presence* with us at all times.

**MATTHEW 28:20b**

*20 lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."  
Amen.*

The Lord Jesus does not look at us in the external like the way we look at each other (1 Sam 16:7). Rather He looks deep into the hearts of people. Looking at the Pharisees, the Lord Jesus once said: *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness"* (Matt 23:27-28).

When the Lord Jesus looks at an individual, He looks deep into their heart. In 1996 I was invited to minister at a Prayer Conference held at Jerusalem, Israel. For four days I saw the Chinese believers jubilantly worshipping God. In particular one woman, I noticed worshipped God exuberantly every day. She would sing and dance with a tambourine in her hand. I thought to myself: What a great worshipper this woman is. How much she loves the Lord. That was how I saw her externally.

As I began to minister to the people I saw the Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit standing beside me. The Lord said to me: *"See closely what I do and say it exactly as what I show you to the people."* The Lord then walked down the aisle of the auditorium. He stopped beside this middle-aged Chinese woman. The Lord Jesus put His hand into her bosom where her heart was. When He took out His hand, her heart was in it.

The Lord Jesus told me to take a good look at her heart. Her heart looked black like charcoal. The Lord then

revealed that there were hidden sins in the woman's life. He revealed what the sins were and said: *"Now, tell her her hidden sins of the heart."* Outwardly the woman looked very godly. But God looks into the heart inside.

3. We need to be conscious of the *Holy Spirit's presence* with us at all times.

**PSALMS 139:7-10**

*7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

*8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

*9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

*10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

**JOHN 14:16-17**

*16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever –*

*17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

4. We need to be conscious of the *Angels' presence* with us at all times.

**HEBREWS 1:13-14**

*13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?*

*14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*



**HEBREWS 13:2**

*2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

Once in 1995 we conducted an evangelistic meeting at Darjeeling, India. On Easter Sunday I ministered at the Anglican Church of North India. That morning, the Holy Spirit moved me to call on the young people to dedicate their lives unto God. About 50 young people came crying to the altar.

As I was looking at the youths, I saw in the Spirit an angel walking from the midst of the youths towards me. He came beside me, pointed a finger at the pastor's daughter, and said: *"I have been watching her since the day she was born (Matt 18:10). She always feels fearful and inferior, though she has been blessed with the gifts of the Spirit. Ask her to be bold and strong in witnessing for the Lord."* The young girl testified to the truth of the word later.

God has appointed angels to watch over us. Let us learn to be conscious of their presence in our lives.

## **THE PERVADING PRESENCE OF GOD**

When we are conscious that God is always watching us we will not practice sins nor entertain sinful thoughts in our lives. As we yield ourselves to Him, the Holy Spirit is then able to control our lives. Perhaps a better word to use than the word *control* is *led* – we will be *led by the Spirit*.

Generally, people will not smoke nor drink nor engage in any kind of vices in a church. People will not

think of doing sinful things in a church because they think that the church is where God is. But the scriptures say: *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* (1Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16). We must allow this thought to sink into our consciousness: *our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.; God is with us and in us.*

The day we let this consciousness rule us, our life will be totally changed. You will know that the devil is no match for you. We have to allow the consciousness that we are the temple of God to rule us. When that happens we will know that the glory of God resides within us.

I was once fasting and praying in Kalimpong, a picturesque town in the Himalayan Mountains in 1991. On the third day of the fast I saw a vision. In the vision I looked inside my body. It looked like an empty cage. I thought it quite amusing since it was contrary to established medical science, for many organs are found inside the human body.

Within that hollow cage I saw it filled with a glory cloud. The inner surface of my body tissue was shinning with the glory of God. I was wondering at what I was looking at when I heard the Holy Spirit say: *"This is what the scripture meant when it says you are the temple of the living God. Within you is the glory of God"* (cp. Eph 2:19-22).

It is a great wonder to hear what the Bible says concerning the Lord God: *"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones'"* (Isa 57:15). The heaven of the heaven—

eternity itself and the entirety of the created and uncreated cosmos—cannot contain the presence of God.

However, this same great God, blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, made Himself so small that He could come and reside inside us. How is it possible, you too may wonder, as I always do.

Many years ago, some scientists conducted a research to find out if man really possesses a soul. They weighed several people who were near death and weighed them again after they died. The scientists were surprised to find a difference in their weight:  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce lighter when the subjects died. The scientists came to the following conclusion: *man possesses a soul and it weights  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce*. The Almighty Lord God, whom the whole universe is not huge enough to contain, has come to dwell in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce soul. Can you comprehend that?

## THE KEY TO VICTORY

We must allow this consciousness of God's pervading presence to rule our minds. This purposeful consciousness kept the Lord Jesus Christ from falling under the power of temptation and committing sin (Heb 4:15). If the Lord Jesus Christ was tempted like us, how was it possible for him not to sin? The answer is the key to our mastery over sin. The Bible says: *who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear* (Heb 5:7).

*His godly fear* – that is the key. The Lord Jesus could not comprehend the horror of being separated from the presence of the Father God. During His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus often said that He and the Father God are one (Jn 10:30). If they are one, the Lord Jesus Christ was then ruled by the consciousness that God is with him and in Him. With that consciousness came the godly fear that He must not do anything that will cause Him to be separated from the Father God's presence. That consciousness of the presence of God kept the Lord Jesus from committing sin though He was tempted.

Let us also consider the life of the patriarch Joseph. The very consciousness of God's presence caused Joseph to be victorious, and prevented him from falling to sin. Joseph was working for Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. Potiphar's wife was attracted to Joseph's youthful beauty. She made him an indecent proposal—to make love with her.

And how did Joseph respond to her? The Bible tells us: *"And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?'"* (Gen 39:7-9).

Please mark what Joseph told her, *how can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?* Joseph saw the secret act of yielding to the sinful pleasures of his master's wife as an act of sin against God. Why? Joseph was always conscious of the presence of God with him

(Gen 39:2-3,21,23). It was the consciousness of God's presence and the fear for God, which Joseph possessed, kept him back from sinning against God.

The key is for us to keep the fear of God before our eyes at all times.

## **HOW TO DEVELOP THIS CONSCIOUSNESS**

We must learn to practice the consciousness that God is with us, in us, and upon us, and we don't want to be separated from His presence. Adam and Eve were one with God in the garden in Eden. Sin entered and they were separated. The Lord Jesus, who existed always with God and in God, was also there in the garden. He too saw the whole drama played out. He knew that if in His incarnation as the Messiah He disobeyed and strayed away from the conscious presence of God, He too would get the same penalty.

God is a righteous judge no matter how close we are to Him. The closest person to God will get more punishment than the ordinary one. The prophet Moses committed one small sin (Num 20:7-12). And the Lord punished him by barring him from entering into Canaan despite his tearful repentance (Deu 4:21; 32:50-51).

How do we develop the consciousness of the presence of God, so that He is with us, in us, and upon us all the time? We must forget that we are alone and we must be conscious of the presence of God at all times. There are three ways.

## 1. *Pray without ceasing.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:17**

*17 pray without ceasing,*

**EPHESIANS 6:18**

*18 praying always with all prayer and supplication  
in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all  
perseverance and supplication for all the saints*

Praying in the Spirit—*speaking in tongues* that is—is an effective way to be conscious of God’s presence all the time. I don’t mean that God will only hear us when we pray in tongues. Any language we pray God would still hear. In the human language the vocabulary is limited but in the Spirit it is limitless.

Praying in the Spirit will always crystallize our mind and heart on the presence of God. Practice praying for at least one hour in tongues every day and you will find that the reality of the presence of God in your life will increase day by day (Jude 20). The more you find the presence of God in your life the more the presence of God becomes very real and meaningful.

## 2. *Praise and give thanks to God always.*

**EPHESIANS 5:19-21**

*19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and  
spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your  
heart to the Lord,*

*20 giving thanks always for all things to God the  
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

When there is a song in our heart all the time the mind is obviously not going to tread on other sinful grounds.

### *3. Keep the mind on the things of the Spirit.*

#### ***PHILIPPIANS 4:8***

*8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.*

They burrow and they bore in. They attached themselves inside our head. *Earworms*, a term once used exclusively for insects, is now the name for those unrelenting tunes that we can't get out of our head. One man's personal nightmare was: "It's a Small World After All." The only way to rid ourselves of such insidious infestation is to replace it with another tune – our "cleaner" song. New words and fresh tune can replace the old.

Likewise we need a cleaner for our thought-life. When lustful, vengeful or unbecoming thoughts that invades and tries to burrow into our minds, reading and meditating God's word can help to clean our thinking.

This is the beautiful counsel the Bible gives us on how to practice the consciousness of God. When we constantly think on these good things there is no chance of any negative thing coming into our mind. The Bible further says: "*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth*" (Col 3:2). Let's get heavenly-minded.

## A SURE FOUNDATION

How can we know that our consciousness or our mind is built upon with the presence of God? The day we find fear absent in us is the day we can know for sure that our mind is now controlled fully by God's presence. The Bible says:

**1 JOHN 4:15-18**

*15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

*16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

*17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

*18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.*

When we are fully conscious of God's presence in our life then we are not alone. If we are not alone the Godhead, together with the angels, is with us. What is there then to fear? The absence of fear is the outward evidence that our mind is fully conscious of the presence of God.

While on a ministry trip to Tibet in 1995 my companion and I were detained by the police for evangelizing and brought before the Police Chief of that town. While interrogating me he kept saying: "You know you should not have done this; why did you do it?" There was no way out for the chief monk of the only monastery in



the town had reported us to the police for distributing gospel tracts. I was caught with evidence for every single tract that was distributed to the monks in the monastery were meticulously collected and handed to the police.

As I was being interrogated I felt the presence of someone or something beside me. When I turned to my right I saw an angel standing with a long drawn sword in his hand. He looked so fierce he was ready to strike anyone down at the slightest signal from the Holy Spirit. When I saw the angel whatever fear of imprisonment I had disappeared. I was as calm as a cucumber before the police chief.

When I saw that angel there arose a consciousness in me that I was not alone. I knew that nothing adverse would befall me. The angel was there to take care of me. After three hours of interrogation the Police Chief finally let my associate and me go.

The next day two plainclothes police officers came to my hotel room and asked me to go to the police station again for the Superintendent of Police of that district wanted to interrogate me. He traveled 200 km just to investigate the matter. The morning prior to this incident, as I was praying, the word of the Lord came to me: *"The enemy will come in one way but flee in seven ways from you"* (Deu 28:7). I went with them to the Police station confident of the word of God.

The Superintendent of Police, a short Chinese man, was very fierce and had a hidden agenda to find some incriminating evidence so as to throw me into prison. I really felt like the Prophet Daniel in the lion's den

(Dan 6:16-22). He spoke fluent English but chose to speak mostly in Chinese. My associate, who was Chinese, would translate to me what the officer was saying.

At one point my associate was told not to translate for me the conversation between them. The officer asked several questions in Chinese and my associate answered him as best as he could. Somehow I had the witness in my spirit that I would be asked the same questions later on, so our answers could be counter checked. I began to pray: *"Lord please make me understand what they are talking."* Instantly I heard in my ears their conversation in perfect English though they were speaking in Chinese.

When the Superintendent was finished with my associate he turned to me and repeated the same questions in English. Since I knew what answers he received, I simply repeated the same answers provided by my associate. Needless to say, the Superintendent was shocked. He became very angry. His face turned red. At that very moment I felt another presence beside me.

I saw in the Spirit the Lord Jesus standing by my right side and any trace of fear in me vanished (*cp.* Acts 23:11; 2 Tim 4:16-17). The Lord lovingly told me, *Yesterday you faced a small officer so I sent my angel to take care of you. Today you are faced with a higher authority. So I have come personally to take care of you.* What an amazing act of love and care from the God of the whole universe! I knew deep inside that this officer could not even hurt my shadow. From that moment on I sat relaxed on the sofa drinking coffee and eating groundnuts.

After two and half hours of questioning the superintendent made us sign some confessions of misdeed

and released us. As I was walking out he pulled me aside momentarily, looked at me fiercely and said: "*I don't believe you at all and I don't even know why I am releasing you.*" I gave him a courteous smile and said in my heart: "*But I know.*"

I felt no fear whatsoever in that potentially disastrous situation, in which my associate and I could have landed ourselves in prison, because I was conscious of the presence of the Lord Jesus and the angel. In those tense moments there came a peace on me that nothing evil was going to take place.

This is what we should now practice—the practice of the conscious presence of God. Only then are our lives controlled by the Spirit.



## CHAPTER 8

# *Renew the Mind*

### **ROMANS 8:6-7**

*6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

*7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

In order to be conscious of God's presences all the time a change must come over the mind. The carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the laws of God neither indeed can it be! In order for us to maintain a consciousness of the presence of God all the time so that the Spirit controls our life we must not be carnally minded.

Our minds are programmed to think and react according to our upbringing, environment, culture, and society. We are shaped by them to talk, think, behave, and react the way we do. But when we are born again, a new set of rules—spiritual discipline, a Christian culture and environment, a new hunger for God—takes over.

When the Lord God called the prophet Moses up to Mount Sinai He spoke with Moses and gave him the

Ten Commandments. The Bible records that all Israelites saw the glory of God come down on the mountain (Ex 19:16-20). The Israelites saw the glory fire of God; they heard the thunders and saw the awesome display of lighting and a dark cloud come and reside on the mountain. Not only that they also heard a loud sound of a trumpet, and were terrified to see the mountain quaked and moved about.

The prophet Moses was awed to see the kaleidoscopic display of God's glory. While the whole of Israel was witnessing this scene God had to warn Moses about dealing with the people about obedience. It is quite interesting to note the dialog exchanged between the Lord God and the prophet Moses:

***EXODUS 19:21-25***

*21 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish.*

*22 Also let the priests who come near the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them."*

*23 But Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'"*

*24 Then the Lord said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them."*

*25 So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.*

The carnal mind cannot obey God. When we say carnal mind, we refer to the unregenerate born again mind. In order for our mind not to be carnal our mind must be changed to a spiritual mind. This process of changing is called the renewing of the mind. Our mind must be renewed and transformed. If not, no matter how much you try to live a holy life you will always end up disobeying God.

Our born-again spirit wants to obey the Father of Spirits. But the mind is not born-again. It rebels. It does not want to conform to the new Christ-nature, 'because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be' (Rom 8:7).

The soul is made up of the *mind, intellect, emotion, and will of man*. The devil launches his assault against us here. He attempts to attack, tempt, distract, and attract us in the mind. The Bible tells us the devil throws fiery darts at us (Eph 6:16).

The word *fiery* in Greek *puroo* signifies: *to kindle, i.e. (passively) to be ignited, to be inflamed (with anger, grief, lust)*. And the word *dart* in Greek *belos* signifies: *a missile, i.e. spear or arrow*. So, the fiery dart that the devil uses is a weapon like arrows with fires. The Amplified Bible translates it as *flaming missiles*. When it hits our mind it penetrates into our thoughts and will inflame us with emotions like anger, grief, lust, etc. The devil shoots fiery darts at our minds, causing us to become carnally minded, tempting us to walk into the battle arena of carnal emotions.

Can the carnal mind change or overcome? The Bible gives us the answer:

**ROMANS 12:2**

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

The Amplified translation of this same verse gives us a little more depth,

**ROMANS 12:2 (AMP)**

*2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].*

In this scripture there are two key words mentioned: *transformed* and *renew (ing) of your mind*. He says that the carnal mind must be transformed must be changed and when changed the result will be that you will always know the perfect and acceptable will of God for your life.

The word transformed is very interesting because the Greek word for transform is the same word used for the word “transfiguration” for the Lord Jesus Christ when He was transfigured on the Mount (Matt 17:2).

*Transform*, Greek is *metamorphoo* – to transform (literally or figuratively): *change, transfigure*. It also means: *to change into another form (meta, implying change, and morphe, “form”)*, is used of Christ Jesus’ “transfiguration,”



(Matt 17:2; Mk 9:2). However in Luke 9:29 we find some additional information. Luke uses the phrase *egeneto heteron*, meaning *was altered*, or literally, *ginomai heteros* means *became different* (2 Cor 3:18). *Morphe* lays stress on the *inward change*.

*Transform*, means, as W.E. Vine's Dictionary puts it: *to undergo a complete change which under the power of God will find the expression in character and conduct*. In a nutshell when we are transformed, when our mind is renewed it will effect a transformation and that transformation will be evident in two areas of your life, *character* and *conduct*. Character is within conduct is outside. So when our mind is renewed within us then comes a transformation and externally also there is a transformation, this is a twofold.

There are two things, that is light, that has the power to cause an effect of transformation on the mind - *prayer* and the *word*.

Let's consider the following scriptures.

**1 JOHN 1:5-7**

5 *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**PSALMS 119:130**

130 *The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.*

These two scriptures clearly show us that the transforming power of God's pure light is found in prayer and the word. When we give ourselves to diligent prayer and the meditation of the God's word, our mind can be transformed like the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus.

*Renew*, Greek *anakainosis* – renovation – renewing. W.E. Vine's Dictionary explains it: *the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking through the mind of God, which is designed to have a transforming effect upon our life*. This simply means when our mind is renewed this carnal mind is transformed like a spiritual mind.

When our mind is transformed into spiritual mind, we shall possess the mind of Christ (Phil 2:5). When this mind is renewed this mind becomes a spiritual mind and the Bible says that the Spiritual man understands all things (1 Cor 2:10-13). Why? Because a spiritual man has a spiritual mind and the spiritual mind is one with the mind of Christ.

The Bible further says: *And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude]* (Eph 4:23, AMP). Unless and until the mind is renewed, we will not know the good, acceptable and perfect will of God for our life (Rom 12:2).

The mind needs to be renewed so that it will have an effect in our spiritual life and in the natural life. The mind is like a central figure that touches two worlds, the spiritual realm and the natural realm.

Consider what the Bible says concerning the making of man: *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and*

*man became a living being* [soul] (Gen 2:7). So God took dust and made a body and then he breathed into him the breath of life.

So, God breathed into man the breath of life - His life-giving Spirit mixed into the body and then he became a living soul. So here dust plus spirit equals living soul. The word says and man became a living soul. It does not say and man became a living spirit. Why? There is a purpose why God put the order in that perspective. The proper divine order for the composition of man is: *spirit, soul* and *body*. You will also find this pattern in 1 Thes 5:23: *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The originally man is a spirit, he has a soul and he lives in a body. Soul is the *emotional, intellectual* and *reasoning* part of man. Here we have a very important clue that the mind or the soul is the middleman between the two worlds - the spirit realm and the natural realm world. The spirit man is the factor that determines which side he wants sway to.

Whether it sways to the spirit realm and becomes a spiritual man or to the fleshy natural realm and becomes a carnal-minded man. That's why our mind must be renewed. The mind is a battleground, because the devil will also through darts at it.

One midnight in 1984 I was praying in Palayamkottai, South India. My spirit was taken out of me and I found myself standing in a moving train. The accompanying angel said: *Stand and watch what's happening*. People normally don't sleep in the train - they gamble and

played poker cards. I saw a group of man playing poker cards. A demon spirit went and stood beside a particular man and spoke something into his ear. But to that man it appeared as thoughts to his mind and the man reacted to the suggestive-thoughts.

When God speaks he also impresses our thoughts. Sometimes when an angel speaks to us they put thoughts into our minds. Our mind - like a radio receiver, is capable to receive thoughts and impressions from God, the Holy Spirit and from the angels.

The communication from the divine sources usually appear like thoughts impressed upon our mind. That's why it is very important for us to have our minds renewed and transformed. Because the mind is the central person who will decide whom it will obey - God or the devil. If the mind is unrenewed it will always obey the devil. When it is renewed it will often-at-times strive to obey the Lord though the devil will tempt otherwise.

When the mind is renewed, we will put on the new man and there is a responsibility on our part to put off the old man (Eph 4:23-24).

The Bible says that when we are born-again, we become new creatures in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:17). If we are already a new creation, a new man in Christ, then why the need to put on the new man? It is one thing to receive a suit or dress. It is entirely another thing to put it on. What we have inherited in Christ, we now have to appropriate in our lives to be able to walk in the Spirit.

The Lord Jesus said: *No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the*

*garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved (Matt 9:16-17).*

A family moved into a new home. When they entered the house they found that the former owner had left behind six dining room chairs as gift for them. The chairs were covered with fabric of beautiful African art. They appreciated the unexpected gifts and used them frequently to entertain guests.

When they had to move again those chairs needed a makeover to match their new décor. So they called an upholsterer and asked if new material could be just put over the existing fabric. He responded saying that it would ruin the shape of the chair if new material was put over the old.

We should not just practice the Christian faith without a real transformation of the inner man. Doing so would lead us to have a distorted spiritual image. The Holy Spirit residing within us must be given space to churn out the old and be allowed to put on the new man. So, when you put on the new man who is created after righteousness and true holiness, you have to put off the old man.

**Ephesians  
Chapter 4**

**Put Away**

**Put On**

Verse 25

Lying

Speaking the  
truth

Verse 26

Sin

Holiness

Verse 27

Giving place to  
the devil

Yielding to the  
Spirit

## The Spirit Controlled Life

Verse 28	Stealing	Working with your hands
Verse 29	Corrupt communications	Good communications
Verse 30	Grieving the Holy Spirit	Sealed by the Spirit
Verse 31	Bitterness, wrath, anger Clamor, evil speaking, malice	Be kind, tender- hearted Forgiving as God forgave us

Therefore, when the mind is renewed we will break out of the web of carnality and begin to walk in the Spirit.

## HOW TO RENEW THE MIND

Now we can ask a very important question, how can we renew our mind? There are two ways: *prayer* and *meditation of the word of the God*.

### 1. *Prayer*

#### **EPHESIANS 4:23**

*23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

Here again we find the word “renewed.” But this word used here is a little bit different from the word found in Romans 12:2. Here *renewed* in Greek *ananeoo* means, to *renovate*, i.e. *reform*.

To be renewed in the spirit of the mind can be defined as: *The spirit of the mind under the controlling power of the indwelling Holy Spirit directs the thoughts and bends its*

*energies God wards in the enjoyment of the fellowship with the father and his Son Jesus Christ and of the fulfillment of the will of God.* It means that this aspect of the renewal of the mind comes as result of our fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me give you simple illustration, when a chicken lays eggs the egg inside is lifeless - there is no form, no image, it is only a colorless liquid and a yellow yoke. But when the hen sits on the eggs for 21 days, its heat is transmitted to the egg. At the end of three weeks the imageless, formless, lifeless egg is transformed into the likeness of its mother - the hen.

Likewise when you fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ the glory of God covers you. The presence of God over shadows you and the fire from the presence of God begins a work of renewal in you.

In order to really understand this work of renewal and transformation we can look at an event that happened to the Lord Jesus. Let us read what really happened to the Lord Jesus on the mount when He was transfigured.

***LUKE 9:28-31***

*28 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.*

*29 As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.*

*30 And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah,*

*31 who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.*

I was once graced by the manifold mercies by the goodness of God to see in a vision the scene of the transfiguration. On this particular occasion, the Lord Jesus was praying intently on a mountain. As He was praying thus on earth, in heaven, another scene of great importance was taking place. An Angel of a high order was sent to call upon the prophets, Moses and Elijah. The two saints and the angel appeared very cordial and friendly with each other. The Angel told the two ancient prophets of Israel that they were required to go down to earth and give the Lord Jesus a message.

Meanwhile, as the Lord kept on praying a portal opened up in the heavens. Rays of bright glory-light poured out through the portal. The glory-filled light purer than any noon day sun first fell upon His eyes. The rays of light appeared to dance and sparkle on His eyes as how you would see glittering light dancing in the sea waves. When the Lord received that light it entered into His being through His eyes.

When the light entered into His spirit it caused an explosion of light like a nuclear fission. Rays of laser-like pure light began to pierce through His skin. As it did, it tore away the Lord's physical layers of skin and exposed His divine being. His entire visage was altered into something else because the human skin which thereto was shielding the glory of the invisible God was now made manifest.

How did the Lord Jesus experienced this? The Bible says: *as He prayed* (Lk 9:29). Several different translations of the Bible translate this phrase: *as He was praying*. It is a present continuous tense. Which means the Lord Jesus kept on praying intently. The Holy Spirit impressed upon me that it is absolutely possible for every believer to experience the same transfiguration and transformation in the mind if they did as what the Lord did - *praying intently*.



This is the effect that takes place in the spirit of your mind when you begin to fellowship with the living Christ. The more you fellowship with God, the more you are being imparted with His glory which then transforms us like how the Lord Jesus was transfigured. The words transform and transfigure is the same Greek *metamorphoo*.

The Lord Jesus revealed once that a believer can have the same transformational experience like His experience of the transfiguration. In a vision, I saw a dark room. A Hand brought one lighted candle into the room and placed it on a table. There was just a little bit of brightness and the room was dim. Candle after candle was then brought into this room, and each time a candle was brought in, the brightness in the room increased. Soon the room was well lit.

As more candles were added, the brightness in the room increased even more. Eventually the light from this growing brightness inside the room began to seep under the door to the outside. Looking from outside the room, I could see light pouring out from under the door. The Lord Jesus then told me that what I saw in the vision was like the transfiguration experience that He had which any believer can have..

I asked the Lord: *Where in the Bible does it say that an ordinary person can be transfigured like You?* The Lord Jesus in return asked me: Haven't you read in the Bible where it says that the face of Moses shone?

**EXODUS 34:29-35**

*29 Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain),*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.*

*30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.*

*31 Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them.*

*32 Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.*

*33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.*

*34 But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded.*

*35 And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.*

When the prophet Moses came down from the mountain after being with God the skin of his face began to shine with glory. If the face of a man, Moses, can shine after being in the presence with God so can any believer if they too can be in God's presence. The key to this experience is prayer - fellowship with the father, with the Lord Jesus and with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will then transform us from glory to glory into the image and the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 3:18).

## 2. *The Meditation of the Word*

Jey had a dog whose favorite game was to play tug-of-war with a rubber pull-toy. She would grip one end of the toy with her teeth and Jey would grip the other end with his hand. Because the dog was small, Jey's effort to win sometimes lifted the dog off the ground. But the dog still gripped the toy stubbornly.

Our sinful human nature – the flesh, is a lot like the dog, continually playing tug-of-war with the spirit. In order for the mind to be strong to resist temptations it must be renewed and strengthened by God's word.

Our mind can be renewed and transformed by the meditation of the word of God.

### ***JOSHUA 1:8***

*8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

The word “good success” in the Amplified Bible is translated as: *shall deal wisely and have good success*. My meditating the word of God you shall be able to deal wisely in all areas of your natural life. The wisdom that you will gain from the mediation of God's word will give you the knowledge and understanding to deal wisely with all your natural life. So you never ever have to make a mistake.

Mediate the word of God day and night. This is one area of our spiritual life where we need to have a major discipline. Most Christians are making a grave mistake in

this area. We *read* the word but we don't *mediate* the word. Reading the word of God is useful for getting information, but they are not profitable for your spirit. For your spirit man to grow and for your mind to be renewed, you need to mediate the word. Reading the word is like swallowing the food. We chew the food then the chewed food goes to your stomach. Chewing is mediation while swallowing is like just reading.

The Bible says: *give attention to reading* – the word of God (1 Tim 4:13). But we must not stop. We must go one step beyond that. The key factor that will transform and renew your mind lies in the meditation of the word of God.

Meditate, Hebrew *hagah* means *to murmur (in pleasure or anger)*; by implication, *to ponder - imagine, meditate, mutter, speak, study, talk, utter*. It also conveys: *to muse or ponder; converse with oneself aloud*. Most Christians usually read the Bible silently. When we mediate we are to think on what the scripture is saying and ponder over it deeply and by speaking aloud to oneself. As you speak the word you are meditating aloud your mind should pondering and thinking on it at the same time.

Have you ever seen a cow eating grass? One day I saw on the streets in India a cow standing in the middle of the road. She was chewing some straws. I observed the cow's eyes, it appeared as if it's deeply thinking over something. Then she would spend a long time chewing their cud. I pondered why cows spend so much time chewing it.

Cows first fill their stomachs with grass, straws and other food. Then they settle down for a good long

chew. They bring the food back up from their stomachs and rework what they have already eaten, assimilating its goodness and transforming it into rich creamy milk.

When I observe this process of chewing the cud I realized this is the same principle involved in meditation – chewing, murmuring and speaking the word to yourself and musing and pondering over the scripture.

When you have a problem you just think over it and murmur at the same time - that is the negative aspect of mediation. Do the same thing with the word of God.

## RESULTS OF MEDITATION

In India, women use granite stones to sharpen knives. They set the knives against the granite stone, applied force using a stroking movement, and let the granite sharpen the edges of the knives. The knives are so sharp they could slice through a hair. To sharpen a knife, you rub it against a granite stone.

Likewise when we meditate the word it helps to renew our mind in the following five ways.

1. *The word of God **cuts** your mind.*

### **HEBREWS 4:12**

*12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The word of God is like double edge sword. When you to meditate the word, it will cut whatever ways of the world and old thinking inside your mind. It will cut fleshly strongholds to pieces.

2. The word of God will **wash** the mind.

**EPHESIANS 5:26**

*26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.*

The word of God washes your mind, your soul and will cleanse away every kinds filth and impurities.

3. The word of God **purifies** the mind.

**PSALMS 39:3**

*3 My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue:  
(also Jer 5:14; 1 Pe 2:22)*

The word of God like fire will purify and refine the mind.

4. The word of God **illuminates** the mind.

**PSALMS 119:130**

*130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.*

The meditation of God's word not only gives light - illumination, but it also gives understanding.

5. *The word of God **sanctifies** the mind.*

**JOHN 17:17**

*17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

The meditation of God's word will make us pure and holy.

When the mind is full of the consciousness of God and when it is renewed and transformed, you'll always think God's thoughts. His thought will slowly transform you into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we with unveiled faces, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, will be changed into the same image of Christ Jesus from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor 3:18).

One day as I was praying I found my soul in heaven. I saw the Lord Jesus Christ very calmly seated on huge rock. He wasn't just seated but was reclining against the rock. When the Lord Jesus saw me he said: *Come here.* I went and stood beside him. He took out a mirror and placing it in front of me said: *Take a look.*

When I looked I never saw my face reflected on the mirror. Rather, though He held the mirror in front of my face I saw the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was shocked! I asked the Lord Jesus: *How come the mirror does not reflect my face?* The Lord explained to me: *This mirror, represents My word. If you meditate on it day and night it will transform you to look like Me. When you are transformed by My word your faith will be made strong you like this rock on which I'm sitting on. That's why the Bible says faith comes by hearing the word* (Rom 10:17).

Two college students in Moorhead, Minnesota (USA), painted a mural on the wall outside their dormitory room. It showed a school of fish all swimming in the same direction except for a single fish heading the opposite way. Printed on the picture were the words, *Go against the flow*.

*Dare to be different*, should be the motto and mission statement of every truly born-again Spirit-filled Christian. Our motives, values and habits should be different from the standards of the world. That's why the pagans in the first century were puzzled and convicted by the lifestyle of Christians. They were not conformed to the ways of the world (Rom 12:2). Rather, their minds were renewed and transformed like the mind of Christ.



## CHAPTER 9

# *Keys to Walk in the Spirit*

When we want to learn driving, we go and enroll ourselves in a driving school. The driving instructor would spend hours teaching us. We would get hands-on experience and learn the principles of driving. If we pass the driving test, we might even go and purchase a beautiful car.

In the car we would find a manual, a ‘how to’ guide to operating the car safely. But there remains one final thing we must use to activate the car before we actually start driving our own car: *the car keys*. Likewise, we need the keys to activate and put into practice all the principles that have been discussed so far in this book regarding walking in the Spirit.

## THE KEYS

The Lord Jesus revealed what these keys are through a parable in a vision. In this vision, I saw a big beautiful garden. There was a huge tree in the center of the garden. This tree was well grown, its leaves thick and spread out. There were nice flowers and fruits on it. I saw the Lord Jesus tending to the well-being of the tree.

The Lord Jesus then explained to me, a seed must first be planted in good ground. It must then be well watered, so that it can be well nurtured and grow into a big tree. All the while, its roots must be strong and well grounded in the soil.

The four things which the Holy Spirit enabled me to perceive through this vision are the four keys to walking in the Spirit:

**KEY ONE:** *Be Grounded Firmly in Christ*

***EPHESIANS 2:19-20***

*19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,*

*20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

In the life of trees, one key to survival is having more roots than shoots. In his book *Oak: The Frame of Civilization*, author William Bryant Logan says, *If a tree puts on a lot of top growth and few roots, it is liable to be weak-wooded and short lived. If a tree puts down a great deal of roots and adds shoots more slowly, however, it is liable to be long-lived and more resistant to stress and strain.*

Roots aren't at all glamorous, but they are the source of strength. Our roots must go deep into the sure foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ and be hidden in it.

There is no other foundation except the Lord Jesus Christ on whom the Christian life is built upon (1 Cor 3:11). In Christ Jesus alone all things consist,

cohere, and are held together (Col 1:17). To be grounded firmly in Christ, we must abide in Him (Jn 15:4).

We must dwell in Christ, so that He could dwell in us and strengthen us. We could abide and dwell in God by delighting in His presence (Ps 37:4). We could delight in His presence by praising and worshipping His glory, honor, power, and majesty.

When we praise and worship the Lord God, His presence comes and dwells with us (Ps 22:3) and the joy of God will begin to spring forth within our spirit like a fountain that strengthens us (Neh 8:10).

To be grounded firmly in Christ is to have a thorough realization – the fullness of understanding what happened to us when we were born-again. What happened to me the reader may ask.

### *1. Our old man of the flesh died*

#### **ROMANS 6:1-4**

*1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*

*2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

*3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*

*4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

This is the first most important knowing all truly born-again believers should come to realize. Our old man - our old way of living according to the lusts of the world, has died. This realization must come to rule our mind. Only then we can live in newness of life.

## 2. Slave set free

### **ROMANS 6:5-7**

*5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

*6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

*7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

We are no longer a slave to sin. The chains that held us have been cut lose by the Cross of Jesus Christ and we have been set free to live righteously (Rom 6:18).

## **KEY TWO:** *Nurture the New Life*

### **ROMANS 6:11-13**

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

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

*13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

Consider our body dead. Nurture the new life by not giving in to sinful temptations. A certain teenager whenever he visits the zoo uses to skip the eagle's cage. He can't stand the pain of seeing those majestic birds sit in their perches, their brown wings draped over them like an ill-fitting old coat. The eagles were created to soar in the heights, to dance among the clouds, not to be prisoners in a cage. They were made to fly.

We were once chained by the lusts of the flesh to this world like the caged eagle. But now we have been set free. We have been translated into the kingdom of light from the kingdom of darkness. We have been set free to soar in the heavenlies from the sin that confined us in our old life.

Remind yourself – nurture this thought continuously – through Christ Jesus we have been set free. We are no longer in a cage.

### **KEY THREE:** *Meditate the Word*

#### ***PSALMS 1:2-3***

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

*3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

Meditating the Word of God is another way to delight in His presence. However, most Christians instead of meditating are behaving quite like the jacana bird. The *jacana* is a unique tropical bird. It has spindly legs with long protruding toes, enabling it to skip along on floating weeds

or stroll across lily pads. It has been given the nickname *lily-trotter*.

Even though it is capable of majestic flight, it seems content to move lazily from flower to flower or to drift slowly downstream. Most Christians are like the jacana bird in their Bible study. They skip around and skim on the surface. But they fail to learn the deeper truths of God's word that can stabilize their lives. They seldom spend time meditating the word of God.

To *meditate* means to *deeply ponder and think in the mind*. Just reading the Word is like bringing food to the mouth. But when you meditate, it is like chewing the food. When we chew, we are enjoying the food because our tongue tastes the goodness and deliciousness of the food.

Many Christians spend hours studying the Word by researching into the Hebrew and Greek languages. It is good to know the roots of biblical words by studying the ancient languages but it is not enough. Don't stop there. In order to really understand the Word of God, besides learning the ancient languages, seek to know the Holy Spirit, which is really more important.

An American couple once spent their vacation in Switzerland. They stayed for two days in Interlaken, and yet never saw Jungfrau, one of the highest and most beautiful peaks in the Swiss Alps. They could not see the breathtaking natural wonder because a persistent fog had blanketed the entire peak. The deeper truths in the Bible are like that. A fog seems to cloud our understanding. We struggle and strain but are unable to understand the deep truths. We need the Holy Spirit to teach us the spiritual secrets of the Word (Jn 14:26; 1 Jn 2:27).

When we meditate the Word of God, our mind will be renewed and transformed, like a knife being sharpened. The Word sinks deep into our spirit and floods our spirit with light. God's word is light (Ps 119:105) and our spirit is a candle of the Lord of the light (Prov 20:27).

I was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 1993 for some meetings. During one of the days when I was fasting, I decided to do a spiritual investigation. What would happen if I meditated on the name of *Jesus*? After achieving oneness of mind, I began to meditate on the Name which is above all names.

As I was in a deep state of meditation, in a vision I saw the heavens open and the letters 'J E S U S.' As I continued meditating, the word 'JESUS' became flesh. I now saw the Lord Jesus. I meditated on and saw the Lord Jesus transfigured into a ball of light (Matt 17:2). Meditating further, this ball of light began to expand. I perceived then in my spirit that this light would be transfigured into the Father of Lights (Jas 1:17).

There was a blinding explosion of light—like how stars explode in the universe—in my spirit, soul and body. I was physically knocked down and badly shook up. That's how powerful meditating the Word is, the same Word which created and formed the whole universe.

So, when we meditate the Word of God, our spirit man receives the revelation of God. It receives strength from the Word imparted by the power of God, which is inherent in the Word.

## **KEY FOUR: *Be Filled With the Spirit Continually***

### ***EPHESIANS 5:18***

*18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

Besides being filled with the Holy Spirit when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must continually be filled with the Holy Spirit. Just like it is important to drink water at regular intervals daily (medical science says an average of 6-8 glasses of water) in order to sustain life and health, we must continuously dwell in the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Let's read carefully the words of the Lord Jesus:

### ***JOHN 7:37-39***

*37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*

*38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

*39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

When we are being filled with the Holy Spirit continually, the Holy Spirit will spring forth like rivers and springs of living water from within our innermost being. The Bible says that there is a river whose waters give life, flowing from the Throne of God (Rev 22:1). In a spiritual sense, when we are being filled with the Holy Spirit, the living waters from the Throne of God flow into our spirit in a multitude of springs and rivers, flooding our entire body, soul, and spirit.



The way to being filled with the Holy Spirit is to speak and pray in unknown tongues daily. When we pray in unknown tongues, we are stirring up our spirit to take hold of God (Jude 20). Our spirit reaches out to God. The Lord God reaches out to us. His Hand will touch us. He will lead us. He will teach us to walk with Him.

The black-capped chickadee has a surprising level of complexity in the noises it makes for alarm calls. Researchers found that chickadees use a high-frequency call to warn of danger in the air. Depending on the situation, the chickadee call can cue other birds about food that is nearby or predators that are perched too close for comfort.

Studies have also found that chickadees don't sense danger from large predators such as the great horned owl, because they're not likely to prey on such a petite bird. But smaller owls, which are closer to the size of the chickadee, are more of a threat. This prompts sentinel chickadees to repeat the alarm of their calls – the chickadee's distinctive “dee” note.

When we keep on praying in the Spirit, being full of the Spirit enables our spirit to be alert to the sentinel warning from the Holy Spirit of dangers to come. Therefore, maintain a Spirit-filled life by speaking and praying in tongues.



## CHAPTER 10

# *Be Led by the Spirit*

### ***GALATIANS 5:25***

*25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Every Christian has heard of the city Ephesus, which is mentioned in six books of the Bible: *Acts, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Revelation*. What happened to this great city? It was one of the richest cultural and economic centers of its day. Located at the mouth of the Cayster River, it was noted for its bustling harbors, broad avenues, gymnasiums, baths, huge amphitheater, and especially the magnificent Temple of Diana.

What brought about its gradual, not sudden, decline—until its harbor was no longer crowded with ships and the city no longer a flourishing metropolis? Was it smitten by plagues, destroyed by enemies, or demolished by earthquakes? You may be surprised at the answer—silt. Yes, this silent non-violent culprit was the reason for its downfall. Over the years, fine sedimentary particles slowly filled up the harbor, separating the city from the economic life of the sea traders.

Likewise, little sinful practices and small acts of disobedience may in the beginning seem harmless. But if we allow the silt of sin to accumulate bit by bit, we will eventually find to our foolish horror that we are far away from God. Our life will become a picture of spiritual devastation like the ruins of Ephesus today.

The only way to maintain a life that flows like a river is to live and be led by the Spirit of God. Is it really possible to live a sin-free life if we are led by the Spirit you may ask? Read what the Scripture says:

**ROMANS 8:12-14**

*12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

*13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

*14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

**GALATIANS 5:16-18**

*16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

*17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

*18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Both these scriptures tell us that the only way to live a life of freedom from sins is to live in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. The reader may perhaps wonder now how we can accomplish that.

## LIVE IN THE SPIRIT

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt they were led by none other than the Almighty God Himself.

### ***DEUTERONOMY 32:10-14***

*10 "He found him in a desert land and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.*

*11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings,*

*12 So the Lord alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him.*

*13 "He made him ride in the heights of the earth, that he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, and oil from the flinty rock;*

*14 Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, with fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.*

The Lord did lead them, because He considered the Israelites His own people – even His very children (Lev 26:12-13). Likewise, we became the children of God through the Spirit of Adoption, thereby qualifying us to be led by the Spirit of God (Rom 8:15-16).

When the Lord was leading them, even across the dry and barren wilderness, they had no lack.

### ***PSALMS 78:14-16, 23-29, 52-55***

*14 In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.*

## The Spirit Controlled Life

*15 He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths.*

*16 He also brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.*

*23 Yet He had commanded the clouds above, and opened the doors of heaven,*

*24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, and given them of the bread of heaven.*

*25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.*

*26 He caused an east wind to blow in the heavens; And by His power He brought in the south wind.*

*27 He also rained meat on them like the dust, Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas;*

*28 And He let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.*

*29 So they ate and were well filled, for He gave them their own desire.*

*52 But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock;*

*53 And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.*

*54 And He brought them to His holy border, this mountain which His right hand had acquired.*

*55 He also drove out the nations before them, allotted them an inheritance by survey, and made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.*

Not only that. The Bible further says that neither their clothes nor their sandals were worn out during their forty years in the wilderness (Deu 29:5). What an everlasting testimony to the grace and mercy of God! As long as they kept their eyes on the God who led them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night they did not experience any failure (Ex 13:21; Neh 9:12).

God cannot fail us! Consider the Lord Jesus' life during His earthly sojourn. He was led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil (Matt 4:1; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-2). Though He was tempted, He did not sin (Heb 4:15). How was it possible for the Lord Jesus to do that? Is it because He was God the Son? No, He was tempted like us in the flesh (Heb 2:18). He did not sin though tempted because, firstly, He lived in the fear of God (Heb 5:7). Secondly, He constantly abided in the Father God, thinking only the Father's thoughts and doing every Word that the Father commanded. That was why He said that I and the Father are one (Jn 10:30; 17:21-23).

In order to stay free from sin we need to walk in the light.

**1 JOHN 1:7-9**

*7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

*9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Consider the black hole in the universe. It appears black because light does not come from it but is instead, by the immense force of its own gravity, pulled back towards itself. The Lord Jesus said that we are the light of the world (Matt 5:14). After we are born again, inside us is the seed of God, which is the light (1 Jn 1:5). We have to allow that light to shine out (Matt 5:16). When we don't practice the Word, light from within us cannot come out. That makes us like black holes. The devil will then keep us bound to sin.

When we allow the light to shine out by being willing to walk in the light as the Lord is light, then light from us will flow towards the Father of Lights (Jas 1:17). From God, a pure light consisting of righteousness, truth and holiness will flow back into us. This light from God will effect a cleansing and purifying work in us. That is why it is written that when we fellowship with God we become pure like Him (Isa 2:5; 1 Jn 1:7; 3:2-3). Like the information in a fiber optic cable, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ flows through the optic cable of God's light, delivering righteousness and holiness to cleanse us and make us pure.

To walk in the light is to live in fellowship with God – the Father and the Son (1 Jn 1:3). This is the reason why the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry constantly went to a secluded place to spend hours – sometimes even whole nights – alone in prayer with God (Matt 14:23; Mk 1:35; 6:46; Lk 5:16; 6:12; 9:18). A life of prayer bathed in the consciousness of God – such a life is living in the Spirit.

When we truly live such a life how can we then sin? When we abide in Christ Jesus His presence and His fear will begin to rule our consciousness. How can we then sin? A hunter once purchased a dog to help him hunt pheasants. But he soon discovered that the dog was more interested in chasing rabbits. So instead of hunting pheasants, the hunter found himself doing only what his dog preferred. Finally the hunter decided to leave the dog at home.

The dog's primary role was to help the hunter hunt his pheasants. Our primary duty is to fellowship with God – we mustn't forget that! We must develop a consistent



fellowship with God. Just as the hunter left his dog at home we must purpose to leave the dog behind – in other words, abandon all our worldly and carnal pursuits as we seek only the Kingdom of God in our lives. We must not neglect the fellowship with God. When we live in the Spirit we'll strongly reject the evil tendencies within us to sin. That's how we'll "leave the dog at home."

## **WAYS TO STOP SINNING**

The ways to stop sinning are:

1. The mind is the fountain in which sin is birthed. It then flows from it to affect the flesh. When we are full of the Spirit, He will flow like rivers of living waters in us (Jn 7:37-39). Just like the river of life that flows from the midst of the throne of God to nourish the tree of life with fruit and healing leaves, likewise the Holy Spirit, like a pure river of life, will flow in the mind with purity (Rev 22:1-2).
2. The reason we keep falling to sin is our unwillingness to surrender control of our lives to the Holy Spirit. Consider the life of Samson (Judg 13-16). He allowed the Holy Spirit to come upon him to anoint him to do great exploits for God. But he did not totally surrender his life and conduct to the control of the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit wants to lay the axe to the roots of sins in our life (Lk 3:9). Consider a neurosurgeon who has diagnosed a man with tumor in his brain. The neurosurgeon explains the need for surgery to get to the root of the tumor by totally remove it. Suppose the patient refuses the surgery and just wants medicines to treat the symptoms. This man will continue to face whatever the

consequences and additional sufferings, even death, that the tumor lingering in his body might bring.

But if the patient yields to the professional counsel and opts for surgery, then the root cause of his illness can be addressed. Under the expert hands of the skilled neurosurgeon the tumor will be excised and the patient cured. Likewise when we yield our lives to the Holy Spirit He will cut off the roots of sins in our lives.

4. Instead of running away from sin most believers are playing with sins. We think, and we delude ourselves, that we are immune to sin.

**PROVERBS 7:6-27**

*6 For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice,*

*7 And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding,*

*8 Passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house*

*9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.*

*10 And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.*

*11 She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home.*

*12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.*

*13 So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:*

*14 "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows.*

Be Led by the Spirit

*15 So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face,  
and I have found you.*

*16 I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings  
of Egyptian linen.*

*17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and  
cinnamon.*

*18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us  
delight ourselves with love.*

*19 For my husband is not at home; He has gone on a  
long journey;*

*20 He has taken a bag of money with him, and will  
come home on the appointed day."*

*21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield,  
with her flattering lips she seduced him.*

*22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the  
slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,*

*23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the  
snare, he did not know it would cost his life.*

*24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay  
attention to the words of my mouth:*

*25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not  
stray into her paths;*

*26 For she has cast down many wounded, and all who  
were slain by her were strong men.*

*27 Her house is the way to hell, descending to the  
chambers of death.*

The young man in Proverbs 7 should not have stayed to listen to the beckoning of the enticing woman. We should not even pause for a fleeting moment to ponder sin. We should flee fast. We can flee fast – even faster than the chariots of Ahab, which represents a sinful life – only by living in the Spirit. Such was the life of the prophet Elijah (1 Kg 18:41-46).

Peter hadn't done water-skiing in 15 years. One summer his friends offered to take him and his son-in-law out on the lake. At the lake Peter noticed his son-in-law having trouble riding the water. Though the young man had done a lot of skiing, he kept falling. And try as he might, he was having difficulty getting up even on one ski. So, when it came to Peter, he didn't have much confidence.

Fortunately, Peter's friend, a very skilled skier, stayed with him in the water. He coached Peter what to do. He said, *"Just relax and let the boat pull you up. Be strong and courageous."* The good student that he was, Peter relaxed, though he hung on to the boat with all his strength. When the boat took off, he sat up firmly on his skis and was able to enjoy a great ride around the lake. This is what the Holy Spirit does when we hold on to Him by living in Him. He takes us to soar above with Him like the eagle. This is the Spirit-led life.

Eagles, it seems, soar effortless in a graceful manner in the sky. The wind literally bears them up. They make no vigorous effort to flap their wings. They just seem to be resting on the wind as they sail effortlessly across the sky. Likewise is the life led by the Spirit. We must surrender and yield our lives to the Holy Spirit just as the eagle entrusts itself completely to the wind.

During a visit with Martha, a friend suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease, Sam asked what lessons God was teaching her in this difficult journey. She immediately responded: *"Loss of control."* Martha had always been very organized, efficient and methodical. Now she had to depend on others for everything. Unable to move her arms and legs, she had control over only what she thought and

what she said. She lamented, *"Now, with almost all control gone, I totally surrender my life to the Lord."*

This is a lesson on yielding and surrendering to the Lord. We no longer are in control of our life. We are totally yielded to the Holy Spirit. We see this in the life of our dear Lord Jesus. He totally yielded Himself to the Holy Spirit during His water baptism. After coming out of the Jordan River, we read: *"Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness"* (Mk 1:12).

The word *"drove"* in Greek is *"ekballo,"* which denotes *"to cast forth,"* with the suggestion of force. Hence *"to drive out or forth with force"* The Lord was so yielded to the Holy Spirit that even though He knew that He was being *forcibly* led to the wilderness to be tempted and tested by the devil, He was willing to be led like a lamb to the slaughter, giving absolutely no resistance (Isa 53:7).

One of the keys to a sinless life is to purpose or determine strongly in our mind to hate sin and to yield our bodies to the Holy Spirit as a living sacrifice.

**ROMANS 6:11-14**

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

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

*13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*

*14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

The word “*reckon*” in Greek is “*logizoma*,” which means “*to take an inventory, i.e. estimate, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).*” It is making a strong determination. Once a strong determination is made that we will no longer yield our bodies to sin but will rather yield them to God, then the Holy Spirit will come hovering over us. He will overshadow us like how He did to Mary at her conception of Jesus (Lk 1:35). When the Holy Spirit overshadows us He will quicken every cell in us with a resurrection power that reckons our bodies dead to sin but alive unto God for the seed of the God-life to germinate within us (Rom 8:11; 1 Pe 1:23).

## DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

There was once an American Native Indian who, while climbing a high mountain, found an eagle’s egg. He brought it home and put the egg into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet soon hatched together with the brood of chicks and grew up with them.

All his life, the eaglet did what prairie chickens do. The eaglet thought it was a prairie chicken. He scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects. He clucked and cackled like a chicken. Over time it became a fully grown eagle. Yet it never flew more than a few feet off the ground. After all, that’s all prairie chickens could do for flying.

Years passed by and the eagle grew old. One day he saw a magnificent bird fly far above him in the sky. It soared up and up with scarcely a beat of its mighty wings. “*What a beautiful bird,*” said the eagle to the prairie chicken beside him. “*What is it?*” He asked. “*That’s an eagle, the*

*chief of all birds," the chicken responded. "But don't bother and give it another thought to emulate him. You could never soar that high."* The eagle was convinced by those words. He never gave this matter a second thought. He died thinking he was a prairie chicken.

What a waste of potential! That eagle was made to rule the skies. Yet he was so conditioned that he stayed earthbound all his life. All his life he pecked at stray seeds and chased insects though he was designed to be among the most awesome of birds.

This is who we are supposed to be – "Eagle" Christians totally surrendered and yielded to the Holy Spirit. Shall we purpose in ourselves and be determined today to do what these following scriptures say?

**HEBREWS 12:1-2**

*1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

*2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

# May We Hear From You

*Dear friends, we believe this book has been a blessing and challenge to you. Millions of people from around the world have been blessed by Brother Sadhu's messages on books, CDs and DVDs. We believe that even now you have been blessed by this book. Why don't you take a minute and write to tell us how you have been blessed by this book.*

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Lancaster CA, 93539-9055  
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# Do You Need Prayer ?

Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! (Job 16:21). Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven (Matt. 18:19).

Brother Sadhu, please uphold me before the throne of God and agree in prayer with me for

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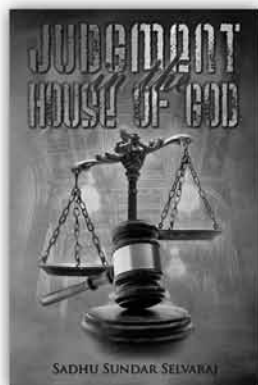


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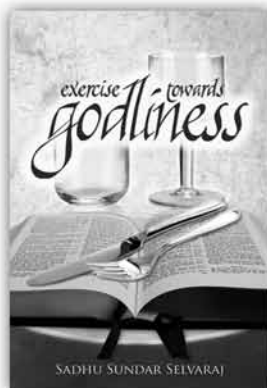


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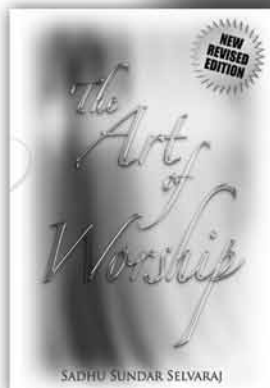
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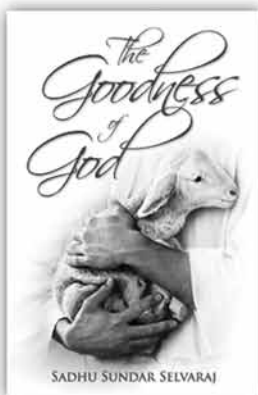
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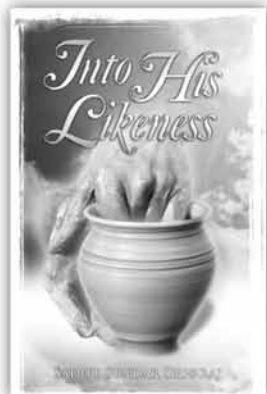
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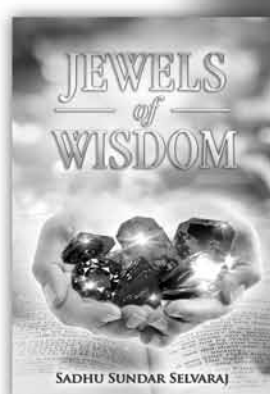
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**LORD, TEACH  
US TO PRAY**



**INTO HIS LIKENESS**



**JEWELS OF WISDOM**

## Notes

## Notes

## *To Gain Self-Control Give Christ Control*

Do you want to walk in the Spirit? Many Christians struggle to walk like Christ Jesus and to live up to biblical standards. Sometimes it seems that time after time we are overcome by the power of sin.

Centuries ago, Roman emperors were known to inflict the hideous punishment of binding the corpse of a murder victim to the back of the murderer. Under penalty of death no one was allowed to remove the body from the condemned person.

We long for purity and holiness, yet at times we feel helplessly bound to the "dead body" of our sinful nature. The tendency to sin is always with us. But, thank God, the Lord Jesus Christ has broken the power of sin! By yielding ourselves to the Spirit, we can serve in newness of life.

Do you want to walk in the Spirit so that you need not succumb to sin? Then this is the book for you! The author teaches clearly and in simple terms how every Christian can overcome the sins of the flesh. You'll gain insight into how to overcome and break bad habits that have been dragging you down. If it is your desire to live a victorious Christian life, free from the power of sin, you need to learn how to live a Spirit-controlled life. This book will show you how.



*SADHU SUNDAR SELVARAJ is a forerunner who has been privileged to be called to prepare the way for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At age 16 he experienced a dramatic and supernatural encounter with the Living Christ. He has been preaching the Gospel and bringing the healing power of God to his generation since 1979 in over 50 nations. His television network, Angel TV, currently reaches out to approximately half the globe. Brother Sadhu has had numerous encounters with the Lord and has been specifically commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ "to prepare the Bride" for His second coming. His life and ministry will provoke, encourage and teach you how to walk intimately with Christ.*