

Overcome the storms of life.

Love in the Principle we use! Whether you are an adult or a child, what you do right now is influencing another generation. What are you influencing them to do? Let this

Devotional be a warning to carefully choose your actions, but let it also be a challenge to

Take what the previous generation did for God to a higher level. Don't let excuses be

Your downfall.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOD

HEAD

Let me point out that God is eternal, self-existing, ever- existing, having no beginning or

ending, and complete and perfect in every sense. God is triune; in His Godhead, He is the

Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The Father is the source, the Son is the expression, and the Spirit is the application. God the Son is the embodiment of God the Father, while God the Spirit is the reality of God the Son, applying the Triune God to those who believe into God the Son. God is also holy and righteous. Holiness refers to God's inward nature, while righteousness refers to God's outward acts. God is love and light.

Love is the element of His inward nature, while light is the element of His outward expression. This God possesses extraordinary wisdom and accomplishes supernatural works.

This title of the book is from *Proverbs 27: 17 Iron sharpens iron and so is a man sharpens the countenance of his friends.*

Being full of the Holy Ghost, to overcome the sin.

Acts 7:55

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, Stephen looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,"

The early church came to a point in their growth where the apostles needed help with the administration of the church. They decided that they would seek out seven men who were *"full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom."* (Acts 6:3) One of those men who were appointed a deacon in the church was Stephen. It is quite interesting that Stephen was not just a man with a title, but it was very evident that he was full of the Holy Ghost. The result of being full of the Holy Ghost was that Saul could not get away from this good man's testimony and his life was eventually changed. When you study Stephen's life, you see there were four definite evidences of being full of the Holy

Ghost. First, being full of the Holy Ghost gave him boldness to preach God's Word. When he was faced with a raucous crowd, he did not shy away from preaching the truth to them. One of the reasons many Christians shy away from speaking God's Word boldly is because they are not filled with the Holy Ghost. Being full of the Holy Ghost will help you to face any person from any walk of life and be able to tell them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you lack boldness in your witness, then you lack fullness of the Holy Ghost.

Second, being full of the Holy Ghost gave him the ability to look beyond adverse circumstances. When the crowd began to

get nasty and wanted to gnash upon him with their teeth and stoned him, he had the ability to look beyond their bad behaviour and look up *"steadfastly into heaven."* Are you able to find a little bit of Heaven through any and every circumstance? The only reason we never see good through any and every circumstance is because we are not full of the Holy Ghost.

When you lack fullness of the Holy Ghost, you will lack the ability to find good in every circumstance.

Third, being full of the Holy Ghost gave him the perception to see God in anything.

While he was being stoned, he *"saw the glory of God."* He could have easily focused

on those who were hurting him; instead, he stayed focused on God which kept his ability to influence the lost untainted. Do you see God in everything you go through? When you lack fullness of the Holy Ghost, you will only be able to see man and the circumstances you are going through. Fullness of the Holy Ghost enables you to see God working through every circumstance.

Fourth, being full of the Holy Ghost gave him the strength to forgive those who hurt him. One of the most powerful statements that came from Stephen's mouth was the

last words he said before he passed into Heaven. He said, "*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*" This will only happen when you are full of the Holy Ghost. You will

never be able to forgive those who hurt you deeply until you are full of the Holy Ghost. If you lack the strength to forgive those who have hurt you, then you lack fullness of the Holy Ghost.

Christian, are these evidences of the fullness of the Holy Ghost in your life? If not, then why? The need to be full of the Holy Ghost is one of the greatest needs you have in your Christian life. Yield to Him daily and ask Him to fill you. When you are filled with

the Holy Ghost, you will not struggle in these four areas.

ADOPTED BY: REVEREND BRIAN RICHARDS & WORD OF FAITH

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL SINCE 18/4/1984 <http://revbrianrichards.com>

AND ESTABLISHED ALSO AS A CHARITY SINCE 2000 -ABN: 39326050887

Sin's Not suddenly a Good Gag Gift

Isaiah 66:3-4

"He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

Every year when I was in high school, we had a party right before Christmas break.

We brought sweets prepared by our parents, but we also played games. With

one of the games we played, every student would take a number from one to whatever. All the gifts would be placed on a table, and if you were the one who had been given the number "one," then you were the first person to choose from the array of wrapped gifts. Every person afterwards would choose a gift, and if they didn't like their gift, then they would trade it with another gift someone else had already opened. The person who chose first had the opportunity at the end to look around and see all the others and trade for the gift of their choice if they didn't like their gift.

That was the benefit of picking first. Sin is not like that at all. You can pick what sin

you want to commit, but you cannot pick the punishment that comes with it. Sin is not a gag gift. If you don't like what your sin brought you, you cannot trade it with someone else and choose your desired punishment. Certainly, there is an array of sin that is wrapped in nice wrapping paper, but once you choose it, you are stuck with it. God said about Israel, "*Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.*" Israel got to choose their sin, and they even enjoyed their sin. Yes, there is pleasure in sin, but the end of the story did not stop with this verse. God continued by saying, "*I also will choose their delusions...*" Notice, Israel

chose their sin, but God chose the punishment. Israel got what they wanted, but God chose the result of their sin. Just like the gag gift on the table, Israel saw their sin wrapped in pretty paper. In fact, they opened it and enjoyed it for a time, but the enjoyment ended when God traded their delight for punishment.

Christian Brethren, I could write everyday about the punishment of sin, but for some reason we tend to think that the warning is for someone else. When we face the choice of sin, we often lie to ourselves and think that we will never have to suffer the consequences of sin as others have. Sin has a way of fooling us, but we must always

keep in mind that sin is not a gag gift that we can switch with someone else if we don't like what was inside of its wrapping paper.

Always keep in mind that sin may have pretty wrapping paper, and you can make your choice of sin, but you will never be able to choose the results of your sin.

Please, let this devotional be a warning to stay away from sin. Look around and see all the people who have chosen sin, but also look at what it brought.

Your sin may be enjoyable now, but you will face its consequences soon. Let this warning move you to repentance towards God and removing the sin from your life. It is only when you repent that you have a

chance for God to give mercy. Remember, you can choose your sin, but you can't choose your punishment.

This book is inspired by the Holy Spirit to give to the body of Christ know There is a place in God where he has to allow us to go the valleys in life to teach us things especially in relationships.

This title of the book is from *Proverbs 27: 17 Iron sharpens iron and so is a man sharpens the countenance of his friends.*

- Being a Philippines national we are a missionary minded family that are raising funds for the victims of flood disaster & earthquakes in Philippines. We live in Australia and write down our testimonies of

the events that have taken place over the past 25 years of ministry.

<https://www.facebook.com/erlinet.richards>

**RE-WITTEN BY PERMISSIONS:
WORD OF FAITH MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL (AUST)**

**ADOPTED BY: REVEREND BRIAN
RICHARDS & WORD OF FAITH**

**MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL SINCE
18/4/1984 <http://revbrianrichards.com>**

**AND ESTABLISHED ALSO AS A
CHARITY SINCE 2000**

-ABN: 39326050887

For the last few years, missionaries have found it necessary in selling various types of books to enable them to raise the money needed to minister the word of God to those who are yet to be reached. These books are mostly in the form of ebooks, autobiographies and hard copies. They teach about religious history and quite a number of other things which have taken place around the world in the past 25 years. These books also carry teachings about evangelizing the word of God in some minor countries within the Asian continent

They have been written by a Reverend who is a knowledgeable writer and laden with information for those who really wish to learn more about God's goodness.

Buying them is one way of showing appreciation to the servants of God who have

worked tirelessly to reach people in the most remote parts of Philippines, China,

Kenya, Himalayas, Pakistan and India among other countries that require much ministry work.

The books are lowly priced and most can afford to purchase them. Once

payment has been received, the e-book is available immediately for download.

These books on Christian literature are well written and are available to be ordered online at any time.

Other than being able to download the electronic versions online, hard copy versions can be obtained from the associated publishing house.

This hardcover's are of the highest quality and can provoke inner thought in someone who has a deep desire to learn more about Christianity and the impact which it has had on people's lives.

The documents sold by the missionary cover many areas of religious studies and can impart knowledge to anyone who is interested to learn. They appeal to people of different age groups. There is also a long list of high impact titles which a person can select from. Some of which are general in nature while others are very specific.

Missionary work is at times complex and there are many challenges which the missionaries cover. One of the greatest challenges they face most of the time is financial shortage. If they don't have enough money to finance their activities,

they will find it quite hard meeting the objectives which they have.

However, through selling books and Christian literature, they can help raise money to keep them evangelizing to places which have not been reached before. The missionaries require moving from one location to another, pay for rental

and medical expenses among others. Most of these missionaries are not supported by their local churches. Through donations and together with book sales is what they solely rely on to keep them moving forward with evangelical work. Appeals for support in this cause are needed due to the fact that God's work is being carried out. People

who buy these books should understand that they are supporting a worthy cause when they purchase them. There are many offers available on purchasing the e-book or hardcover. Due to the ease of the purchasing process, there is no excuse to not support this worthy cause.

We will give you a look at the Sydney town and some photos of the storms of Negros Island, Dumaguete City. The Local schools where we live and our new rented residential premises that is good for ministry also. We still believed that God will allow us to have our own owner one day soon.

This photo (outside gates photos not allowed in is the prison) at Dumaguete City where people are sleeping on the concrete floors! We would like to help them, with your helpful donations:

<http://revbrianrichards.com>

Any way please visit (website) and let me know how I am doing o.k.

Dear Friends and Brothers and Sisters in Christ we just got back From Dumaguete, Philippines we would have never of left as we Needed to comfort our Parents and friends there however no comfort

**Can help them without financial blessings
and we are asking our Friends if they will
help as we have suffered great loss in the
People and family of Dumaguete and
Dipolog,**

Mindanao.....please read this report.....

**On Saturday, December 17, Tropical Storm
Sendong roared into Dumaguete City and
Negros Oriental, dropping 180 millimetres
(over 7 inches) of rain in less than one hour.
Flash floods over two Stories high rushed
from the mountains as people were having
Breakfast. The deluge levelled everything in
its path -- dikes, Bridges and houses--some
with people in them. Over 38 people have**

Been confirmed dead in Negros Oriental. Damage to infrastructure Was initially pegged at close to Php 400 million. These numbers are Expected to rise as reports continue to trickle in. Foundation University campus was spared any major destruction but Many of its students either lost their homes or suffered great Losses and may have to stop schooling as their families concentrate On rebuilding their lives from the devastation. To help them, we have established a scholarship fund for the storm Victims so that their education would not be delayed on account of Sendong. You can help these students fulfil their dreams. To Enrol one student, it costs about Php 20,000 (USD 465) per Semester. Help

**rebuild a dream this Easter by contributing
to <http://revbrianrichards.com>**

**Erlinet & RevBrian Richards lives in
Australia now and is raising funds as a**

**Registered Charity A.B.N. 39 326 050 887
for victims of flood and earthquakes in**

**Philippines has a donation button on the
website of click on review or the contact**

button for free downloads

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com>

**This book is written for mature Christian
however it is noted that the bible is our**

instructions and the Spirit of God is our teacher from his Word the BIBLE:

All references are King James Version of the Holy Bible translated out of the original tongues and with previous translations diligently compared and revised.

This book is written from accumulation of notes how God has spoken to me over the last 20 years of study. The inspiration from the Spirit of God compelled me to write and to continue to write, this book whilst I was convalescing from a car accident nursing a fracture in my back, through the whiplash on impact. I had been very concerned about things that we were hearing in churches about the socalled faith movement. Even

though there was nothing wrong with the word that is being preached because it is all scripture. There is something wrong with the delivery and more importance should be put on the fruit, rather than the power of the gifts. Yes many writers have said this before, and it needs to be said again, that sign & wonders should be following those that believe. Not the other way around, I see people saying there is a anointing over here, that makes people roll around the floor laughing, or miracles happening here and there. I am not against the miracles or the joy of the Lord However I think we all can get our eyes of the real fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22- this is the fruit we should be looking for.

If we hear people claiming to have outstanding miracles in their life, but they are still sinning like an unsaved person there is something wrong. I was a drunk 25 years ago and got filled with the new wine of the Holy Ghost this was a miracle because I never drank like an alcoholic again. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in my life still from the touch of the master's hand; 25 years later one touch from God changed my life forever. I have observed that the Faith movement as we know it, has been confused with other things, and Satan has taken full advantage of this time of whilst young Christians have been battered, and alluded into something that is not of God. The charismatic people

have been drawing people, and counterfeiting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some of these church leaders have waited so long for the move of God that they have embraced the charismatic ways that is going on now, not realising that that they too have been alluded away from the real signs & wonders of God. The God that I know always, always, always shows his fruit in a person's life if a real miracle has taken place. I have talked to Christians that say they are sorry they ever got involved with the Church for one reason or another; well that is not the fruit of the Spirit. There

should be always a love for God that no one can take away (Romans 8:35) tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or peril, or sword? In all theses things we are more than conquerors, no power present, or to come will be able to take the true believer from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord; this is the fruit we should be looking for.

The miracle power of God we received a long time ago folks so walk yea in him. In

Him we live, in Him we move, in Him we have our being. What Greater miracle can there be that can not be counterfeited.

I can see that there has been taught old things are past away and all things have become new! And now we are to call those things that be not as though they really are. O course that is what the word of God say's all. Yes but there is a right way and a wrong way of application of this faith, some people I know expect a magic formula to set them free from their sticky past with-out doing any work themselves. I praise God for that if it happened that way for you, but I have talked to thousands of people about this in deliverance. If some one wanted to start a church and say healing of the memories seminar to night he would fill any building. People want the magic without any effort on their part; deliverance doesn't

come from the touch of the pastor's hand or the stroke of a pen. I come from obedience to scripture and repentance is always required. There has to be a turning away from old ways, old thoughts, deeds, and actions, and then true deliverance comes.

Yes God will hasten his word to perform a miracle of deliverance, if we can hasten our repentance from dead works. However most of the people I have spoken too it took a working out of something that God had worked into our lives. (Philippians 2:12-13) God works in you whilst YOU work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Satan has tricked people all over the world in an expression that people say

here in Australia forget it mate' she'll be right.

Satan wants you to try to forget things by sweeping them under the carpet and years later when they show there ugly head we say well wonder where that came from.

It was UN-confessed, UN-repented sin that is where it came from, and was allowed to grow; now it has become a strong hold that the devil is using to keep a person in bondage, and now needs deliverance.

God spoke to me and gave me Teaching and summons, that I said why Lord, why am

I having all these wonderful teachings and summons. The Lord said this is what I want

you to put into a book, the book “Who is a disciplined disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ” is first written for my benefit. As I was much of the time depressed over my afflictions, I have still not heard, from the driver whom slammed into the back of me at an estimated speed 130klms per hour.

I am alive to day by the grace of God, and whilst being in a bad state of depression God started to speak to me in a way that I had not known before. He said all what you have ever learned about over coming, being victorious in this life you have to put into practice now. So whilst I had time on my hands I enrolled into University to study the Bachelors of Social Sciences, but this

did not satisfy the hunger I had in my soul, and my heart to improve my self and to get well. So by seeking God further than I had ever gone before through desperation the Lord started to wake me up at night and give me teaching and summons.

I got that way that I would not go to bed knowing that if I did I would have to get up again to write down what the Lord was talking to me about. I spent many hours at night just writing down what the Lord gave me to write, sometimes until 5 & 6 o'clock in the morning I would go to bed for a couple hours before going about my day.

With Doctors appointments and
Physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy,

Psychotherapy, xrays, swimming exercises, this kept me very busy and exhausted most of the time for the first two years. The title of this book and the purpose of writing it is that I could see the superficial so called Christian by name only, no real fruit of life. However not really disciplined, and obedience in the word of God at all.

I thought and indeed still do believe that a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, is one whom is disciplined and obedient to His word. My heart cry is that by writing this book that it will bring, the right correction, and direction to the reader

who wants to live an overcoming, victorious Christian life for God. Hence comes the title

“Ba’al- Per Razim = means

**“THE LORD OF THE
BREAKTHROUGH”**

(OR) The breaking forth of waters

**Now before we get into this teaching
concept of this Ba’al-Per-Razim we have**

**to realize that we are taking our
instructions from the great leaders like
King David as he received the instructions
from the Spirit of the living God. This is not
typical unless we become like the great
leader also, we first become a great leader
by becoming a great follower first.**

**“WHO IS A DISCIPLINED DISCIPLE OF
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

This is the title of the first book I ever written and it is clear to me now, as I can see that this title was really chosen by the Spirit of the living God. (Certainly not me) I wrote this book for my own benefit first then I realized that God was using me to continue to write on this subject to bring me and my body into the subjection and complete submission to the Holy Spirit of the living God. I know until we come to that place we and others will misinterpret the Word of God. O.K. so let's have a look at the requirements for leaders.

Two Needed Characteristics for Leaders:

2 Samuel 23:3

*"The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel
spake to me, He that rules over men
must be just, ruling in the fear of God."*

In the final days of David's life, he reveals the advice that God gave him concerning leading Israel. This was not leadership advice from a leader trying to sell a book, but this was leadership advice from the God Who rules over mankind. God made it clear to David that if he were to be successful as a leader, then he needed to be a just leader and a leader whose leadership is always guided by the fear of God. Every leader must be a just leader. Being a just leader is not treating any person differently, but judging everyone by the same law. A

leader who is going to be right with God and man must treat everyone the same. Being a just leader is treating the rich the same way you treat the poor. Being a just leader is treating followers the same way you would treat another leader. Being a just leader is treating a person of no stature the same way you would treat a person of position. A godly leader is one who treats everyone the same. Moreover, a just leader is one who uses the established rules or laws to make

decisions. Being just is more than treating everyone the same, but it is also letting the established rules guide their judgments instead of their feelings. Great leaders do

not lead by feeling, but they lead by the established rules. If you want to be a godly leader, then you must be one who bases every decision upon the established rules or laws. Every leader must also be one who is guided by the fear of God. The fear of God will cause leaders to obey the commandments of God's Word.

In other words, God expects you to lead with the understanding that He will hold you accountable for everything you do. You may think that your leadership position sets you above the laws of God, but you will soon find out that God holds leaders accountable to His Word. A fear of God

will cause the leader to follow God's Word out of fear of God's judgment if they don't.

Furthermore, a fear of God will keep you from the influence of the fear of man. Many leaders have strayed from what they were supposed to do because they were guided by a fear of man. A good leader will not allow man's leverage to influence what they do. A good leader is one who lets their fear of God guide everything that they do.

Are you leading by the two characteristics God requires? If you want God to bless your leadership, then you must be guided by these two characteristics.

When a leader is determined to be just in all they do because they have a healthy fear

of God, then you will find a leader who people can trust because they know that leader is fair. Before a leader makes any decision, they must ask themselves these questions: What did I do with others in this situation? What do the established rules or laws say?

What does God's Word say concerning this situation? Would God be pleased with my decision? These four questions will help every leader to lead in the manner by which God wants them to lead. If God wants you to lead then follow the studies of this book.

O.K. now we are really ready to start the plan of action for Ba'al-Per-Razim This is what it really is from the Spirit of the Lord

**“THE LORD OF THE
BREAKTHROUGH”** We pick up this story
in 1 Chronicles 13. 1 David was to give
instructions for the house of the Lord to be
built in the city of David. And David
perceived that the Lord confirmed him
King over Israel for is kingdom was lifted
up because of his people Israel. So then
David took more wives at Jerusalem and
begat more sons and daughters. (this is a
sign of prosperity and all their names are
mentioned in the book of Chronicles) verse
8 And when the Philistines heard that
David was anointed King over all Israel .All
the Philistines went up to seek David, and
then David *heard it* , and went out against
them. So as I see it the Philistines knew and

remembered that David when he was only young 14 years old boy slew the giant called Goliath with only stone in a sling. This same David is now anointed King over all of Israel, so ALL the Philistines was to go out to see David. What do you think they were going to approve and bless David? No they had plans to kill him this time. So without wasting any time David went out against them. (Verse 9) And the Philistines came and spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim (this *name* Rephaim means=Giants) so we see from this that they was an army of giants and they spread themselves abroad ready to attack.

Can you see this picture: (verse 10) David enquired of the Lord saying, Shall I go up against the Philistines? And will thou deliver them into my hand? And the Lord said Go I will deliver them into thine hand. So David came up to Ba'al-Per-Razim:

and David smote them there. (Verse 11) Then David said God has broken in upon mine enemies by mine hand like the breaking forth of waters: There-fore they called

the name of that place Ba'al-Per-Razim (verse 12) *Notice this that it was necessary to burn all the idols from the false gods.* (Verse 13) the fight was not over yet the

Philistines spread themselves abroad and in the valley of the giants (valley of the Rephaim)

(Verse 14) There David enquired of the Lord again a second time! And said will you yet deliver them into mine hands. Now notice here what the Spirit of God said to David. Go not after them; turn away from them. And come upon them over against the mulberry trees. This was the plan of God and the giving of instructions to King David. (Verse 16) David there-fore did as God commanded him: and they smote the

host of the Philistines, why because God had gone before them, to smite the host of the Philistines for David. (Verse 15)

Now notice this (verse 17) and the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the

Lord brought a fear of him upon all nations. This was most certainly a wonderful work that the Lord did but allowed David to take the credit for it, so he would gain more respect and reverence from more of the people the inhabitancies of all Israel. This strange work that the Lord did as you can see from this picture the size of these giant men in the valley of Rephaim (this *name* Rephaim

means=Giants) this strange work of Ba'al-Per-Razim is confirmed in

(Isaiah 28: 21) this was a strange work because it was the Spirit of the Lord that smote the host of the Philistines in the mist of the fight. So this is what happens when we all got an attitude of praise:

(1 chronicles 14:9) & (Chronicles 11:15) talks of giants.

A special notice to David Commandments to burn all the false God and idols they had on the alters. Do we have any idols in our life that need to be burned?

CHAPTER 15

Then David carried on business as usual and continued to build the houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

O.k. now the rest of this chapter 15 is talking about the way King David brings the ark of God to Zion within the city of David regions. Everything seemed to be going o.k. until David started to make independent decisions and said this is every one job and distributed the jobs to people according to there recognised talents instead of what the anointed did for them. I think the only one he got correct was the Levites was to carry and the ark of God and to minister unto him forever.

(1 Chronicles 15 .3) David assembles all his people together to bring up the ark of God to the place he prepared and the sons of Aaron and the Levites of the sons of Kohath.

(Verse 11)sanctify yourselves both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel unto the place that I prepared for it. For because ye did not at the first, the Lord our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. (Verse 14)So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of Lord God of Israel.

So we see from this that the divine order of God was not followed and repentance had

to come and a sanctification was need to continue to carry the Ark of God to the place prepared. We can have all the right and good intentions but if we do not follow the divine order of God then it will not please God. We see in verse 13 the God made a breach upon them, and stopped them in their tracks King David knew there was some thing not right! So after he sought the Lord this in verse 13 is what was said “For that we sought him not after the due order. There is a due order we must follow, so there was repentance and a sanctification need here. So when they got it right there was a rejoicing before the Lord as they carried the ark of God into the City of David the was a shouting, singing and

dancing before and after the ranks in files and David also had on a ephod of linen. (Verse 26) So when David was not ashamed of his love for God with a dancing and a singing of his own (verse 29) *and it came to pass, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, that mi'chal the daughter of Saul looking out at a window saw King David dancing and playing: before the Lord and she despised him in her heart.*

And latter we find out that this (and she despised him in her heart.) is what made her barren and she never produced any children. So we see from (chapter 16) that David continued, to rejoice before the ark of the Lord God of Israel, and indeed gave

everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. And continued to have communion and rejoice before the Lord. There so many scriptures that tells us about rejoicing before the Lord God, the Spirit of the Living God manifests whilst we Praise and worship. I am compelled here to tell you that in Psalm 16. 9 – 11 we read that when we praise God even our flesh shall rest in hope! Even in times of great troubles if we can praise the Lord our God the Spirit of God will be there and our flesh shall have hope again in the blessed promises of the living God. He is alive through his word, “Jesus and the Word are one” When we praise God, the Gods Spirit inhabits the praises of Israel, and we are spiritual Israel

to-day. (Psalm 16: 9-11 in thy presence is the fullness of JOY. This Joy is a Spiritual power forces within us today that we can release through being joyfulStir up the gift that abides within you by rejoicing in the Lord and this Spiritual power force comes to the for-front because this JOY is a fruit of the spirit within us all whom are born again Christians. As we go roaming through the psalms we see how important it is to praise the Lord as this praise brings God into the picture every time.

Psalm 32:11 Psalm 33:1-3 Psalm 35: 27-28
and specially this one to bring an increase and prosperity *Psalm 67: verse 6 says "The earth shall yield increase for them that praise*

the Lord God, and a reverend fear shall come on the people that see you increase. However remember we have to do things the Lords way with a divine order, the due order. Yes even thou we know what the Lord requires of us the still is a due order the way of doing it correctly. So there are many strange wonderful works that the Spirit of God did let me mention one more, from the Old Testament again. (2 Kings 4: 1-7) Now I have heard this story many times but I shall tell it the I (myself see it) hopefully it will shine a light on some of the scriptures Elisha had a school of prophets and their wife's and families was all under Elisha as a teacher, and a divine authorities leader. One of the wife's came to Elisha and told of

the extreme hardship she was going through brought on by her husband being passed away and left many debts and now the bailiffs are coming to take away what ever they can to redeem the money to pay the debt. The woman was worried that the creditors or bailiffs were coming to take away her 2 sons to pay the debts; the 2 sons would most likely have to work there days out as slaves. (In great bondage) So Elisha being a great man of God and faith said what have you got in the house? Meaning like we would say what have you got of value that can be sold. The woman said we got nothing less a pot of oil is all we got of any value. So then Elisha said so get as many empty vessels as you can find, borrow

them of neighbours if you have to. When they got all the so many vessels as they caught get together, the oil was being poured out into all the vessels (Notice this it was not Elisha that poured the oil it was the woman)

We always tell the story that Elisha multiplied the one little pot of oil into so many vessels, No it was the woman that poured out the oil privately after closing the door behind them the 2 sons and the mother she poured that little pot of oil, and the oil kept pouring until all the vessels were full. Then she cries out sons get some more pots or vessels, buckets anything they could find because oil was still coming. Her

2 sons said there is not a vessel more then and only then did the oil stop: The women then went to Elisha and told him what had happened! Elisha needed to be told what had happened? So it was the woman and the 2 sons that witness this strange, wonderful act of the Lord God of Israel. So Elisha said to the women go and sell the oil and pay off the debt, and live thou and thy sons of the rest. So we see here the wonderful provision of the Lord where the woman could not only pay the debts but to live off the rest of the oil income probably for a long time to come, maybe the rest of her life. One of the major points I see here is to know when the oil has stopped! *We live in the New Testament times where all these*

stories from the Old Testament are types and shadows of the New Testament times we live in. So now we live in a spiritual Kingdom of God:

*(Righteous peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost)
So all the natural stories of the Old Testament are types and shadows of the New Testament where we live to-day!*

□ *So we have to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit within us to know His voice and the voice of a stranger we will not follow. One of the common things we do wrong to-day is we don't know when the oil has stopped? I see churches still operating to-day when they had revival 1981 but the Spirit of the Lord has long gone, and the oil of the Holy Spirit has*

not flowed for years. But the people are just pressing in and expecting God to come back to them with fresh oil of the Holy Spirit: Yes God will do this if there is true repentance again, if the are genuine people crying out to God again. If the divine order of God

(due order) is put right, the Holy Spirit of God will come back: So we have to know when oil of the Holy spirit is there and when some thing is not working because the Holy Spirit is quenched. Some times the Holy Spirit is still there but has been like a person with arms having folded waiting for a chance to speak. We have all been so busy doing things for God, that was not God ordained not His chosen way of doing

things: Remember King David enquired of God a second time, (1 chronicles Verse 14) There David enquired of the Lord again a second time! And said will you yet deliver them into mine hands. And said will thou deliver the Philistines into my hands? God said I will but this time you go among the mulberry bushes.

☐ **(So we must get the right plans from God)**

☐ **(We must have the discernment to know when the anointing is there and when NO ANOINTING is not there)**

☐ ***(We have to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to know his voice and the voice of***

a stranger WE will not follow)

□ *(WE HAVE TO KNOW WHEN THE OIL HAS STOPPED LIKE THE*

WOMEN AND 2 SONS BLESSED WITH MANY VESSELS OF OIL (AND SET THEM ASIDE) AND SOLD THEM TO PAY BILLS.)

□ *WE HAVE TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO KNOW WHEN SOME THING IS NOT QUITE RIGHT.*

□ *1 CHRONICLES 15:13 EXPLAINS WHY THE WITHHOLDING OF*

BLESSINGS: Are we feeling a set aside like the oil for sale! (or) are we noticing there are

people appointed for there talents instead of the obedience to the anointing of the Holy Spirit! It is an awesome thing to fall into the hands of the Holy Spirit knowing that some thing is wrong and the quenched Holy Spirit is prompting you to get things right or get out?

☐ *Otherwise we will be struggling in our own strength and it will not be coming from the strength and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit it will be coming from our own soul, and in our own strength. The signs are that when a thing become strained or forced...it is not God. Proverbs 27.7 & Matthew 5:6 child of God ponder the Fathers message and let Him*

adjust our life, so you can dwell in the inner chambers, then fill others.

□ So we see here that if we trust God and Praise and worship his Holy name the wonderful works of God can be expected. Now Praise brings in the presence of God we know this from the Psalms – how Jesus said worship me in Spirit and in truth.

(We worship from out spirit so our spirit and the Holy Spirit of God can communicate) I believe Praise is from the soul as it says many times in the Psalms; however worship is from our Spirit. (Psalms 42: 7) tells us the Deep calls unto deep, at the noise of thy water spout. That's the deep things in us calls unto the deep things in God as the

noise of our water spout is when we pray!
And again in (Psalms 29 : 2- 3-5) *Give unto
the Lord Glory due to his name: worship the
Lord in the beauty of his holiness.*

*(This is in the Sanctuary) The voice of the
Lord is upon the waters: the God of the glory
thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful; he voice
of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the
Lord breaketh cedars; yea he Lords breaks
the cedars of Lebanon.*

Now this lines up with the videos I have
been making of Ba'al-Per-Razim

“The Lord Of The breakthrough” (or) the
breaking through of many waters.

Now when I preached the message on DVD
I was thinking of the book of Revelations
where we read the voice of the Lord was
like the sounds of many waters.
(Revelations 4:5) (Psalms 29) John 7 : 38
*The Lord said out of thy bellies will flow
rivers of living waters, this Zoe life water is
starting to flow again as we get more
revelation of the ways of the Spirit of God.*

“Christ in me the hope of Glory” I believe
these seven words are given to me from the
Spirit of God, and I start to

write again just like I have written before
by the inspiration of God. These seven
words have started to eat into my mind and
my body I cannot sleep through a whole

night without being awakened up just to quote these words. I ask the Spirit of the Lord to tell me what He wants me to do, as I am going into a trance and a dream day and night meditating of these seven words, “Christ in me the hope of Glory”. I could not concentrate of anything else until I started to write,

Why have this as a title for this book! My reason is that if this vision, plan, dream, or purpose is the desire we all have then I believe we are on the right track, of being a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have written 4 books *so* far about this subject and still I feel there is so much more to say on this to achieve the goal, the goal

being *Colossians 1: 27* to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the gentiles; which Christ in you the hope of glory: I have learned the strongest form of prayer is desire, if we commit to prayer the desires of our heart, then I believe we shall be praying the strongest form of prayer because *psalm 37:4-5* says that that the Lord shall bring to pass the desire of our hearts when we trust him and commit all desires to him in prayer.

When we have such a strong desire to be like Jesus the word of God will become so real to us it will partake of our flesh. *Romans 8: 14-19 & 23* we can be groaning

within ourselves for the manifestations of the son of God.

John 17:22 The desire to see the son of man,

When we have a manifestation of the Spirit God in our lives then we shall have something to impart to others, the anointing of God is transferable. This is how we transfer the anointing. So I am writing into this book about the things that I have known and experienced, and the things no one else has had the nerve to write about these things. The fear of being rejected as a heretic or as someone with erroneous doctrines stops the writer from writing the things that I hope to write and publish here in this small book. However the strong

desire to meet the needs of the disciples of Jesus that I have raised, through personal training and the training people have received from my books, is the driving force that I am writing with now.

“Jesus Lives In Your Home Town” This book you will see on

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com> for an electronic download: and the hard copy books can be seen on <http://trafficbuilder2.com>

“Who is a Disciplined Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

This is the first book I have ever written and is still the best if you want a study book

to go with your own bible. “Will You Be A Horse For God” If you are willing to work for the Lord God of Israel he is calling you to a deeper walk with him! We all come to the Spirit of God and yield our members and our heart to learn from the Spirit of the Living God: We come as a wild horse, willing to be trained.

Missionary Reverend Brian Richards got married to Erlinet Quizo 10th December 2003 Some people that have know Revbrian for some years know also that the Prophecies have been correct and proper with-out any fancy talk or mystical wondering what was said. Reverend Brian

is a “straight shooter and shoots from the hip” Sound like a good title for the next book which is “Iron Sharpens Iron”

I have not got much to say about this except that God will use someone to rub against you to sharpen your senses so you stay sharp. This is the cover of my latest book that is being written right now! So please pray for me and be on my mailing list

<http://revbrian1.com> for this free download everyone will receive this as a free

download I only sell the hard copy book at Lulu Publishers seen on

<http://trafficbuilder2.com>

Sincerity is not everything:

1 Kings 15:14

"But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days."

"But they were sincere." This is the statement you often hear as someone tries to defend another's actions. Sincerity is often the guidelines many people use to determine if someone is right or wrong, but sincerity isn't everything. Just because someone is sincere doesn't mean that they are doing right. King Asa was a very sincere king. God said that his *"heart was perfect with the LORD all his days."* In other words, God was showing us that Asa was sincere in

everything he did. When you study his life, you find that he did a lot of good things, and he did them sincerely; however, he still was not completely obedient to what God wanted him to do because he would not remove the high places. Though his sincerity was admirable, his obedience was not complete. There are several things you can learn about sincerity from Asa's life.

First, God enjoys sincerity. God would not have pointed out the sincerity of Asa if He didn't enjoy it. God enjoys it when He sees a Christian put their whole heart into what they are doing. One of the problems we fight in Christianity today is that there are people who are simply doing what they are

doing as a penance they feel they must pay and there is no sincerity. Sincerity can be read by all, and God enjoys seeing His children's sincerity. Second, sincerity isn't always right. Asa was sincere in all that he did, but he still wasn't right because he hadn't removed the high places. Just because a person is sincere doesn't make what they're doing right. There are many people who are sincerely wrong. I have talked with many Christians who are caught up into wrong doctrine who are sincere about what they do, but that doesn't make their actions right. Your sincerity doesn't justify your wrong actions.

Third, God desires obedience over sincerity. God would not have pointed out Asa's disobedience if He wanted sincerity over obedience. God's greatest desire for the Christian is for them to obey Him. It would be better to obey God and not be sincere than to disobey God and be sincere. God would rather you go soul winning and not be sincere as you go than for you to be sincere in all you do and sit at home and never tell anyone about Jesus Christ. This could apply to anything God commands us to do. God's first requirement is for us to obey.

Fourth, God's ultimate desire is for the Christian to have obedience and sincerity

together. In verse 5, God shows us that David was a king who not only obeyed Him, but was sincere in all he did. Obedience is important, but when it is done without sincerity it will never do the work God intended for it to do. Why not strive to be obedient and sincere together?

You will always find that the greatest Christians are the ones who are obedient and sincere about what they do. Let this devotional challenge you to be obedient, but also to put your heart into what you are doing for God and are sincere with it. Both obedience and sincerity together will help you to make the greatest impact on the lives of those **you are trying to help.**

**I am looking for people that want to work
and make money! Not people that are lazy
and want a hand out if you want to work
and make money put your details on
<http://freelistvideo.com>**

"SEEK YE FIRST"

BY

RANDALL J. BREWER:

**Re-written with permission to Australian
English by**

**"Word of Faith Ministries International"
(Aust)**

It's a sign of the times. People everywhere are searching for something.

We are all by nature a seeking people for there is just something about the act of seeking that captures our imagination. Shopping malls are crowded with people seeking the latest fashion design or the most updated version of the phone. We go to the movie theatre where fascination grips our hearts as we watch the renegade pirate in search of buried treasure. We view on television a professional fisherman who travels the back waters of Africa searching for a river monster that is known to lurk there. We cheer on the gifted athlete as he

seeks to win the gold medal at the Olympic Games. We support them all and hope they find whatever it is they're searching for. The act of seeking is like a giant magnet that pulls us forward in life and barely a day goes by where we are not in search of something. A relentless pursuit goes forth as we seek fortune and fame, pleasure and power. Some seek for a better education, a new job, and a new house to live in. Women seek husbands and men seek wives. That which is most important to you is what you will search for the most. People, possessions, power, prestige, and pleasure all compete for your attention and the addictiveness of these things will cause people to search for them at all costs.

The great tragedy of life is that most people are only interested in themselves, their advancement in life, and their own personal concerns. They become selfish, are too busy to get involved with the needs of other people, and are too occupied with their own pursuits to care. There is more to life than having money in the bank, a new car in the garage, and a boat on the lake. Deep down inside themselves people know this but they've fallen into the trap of putting things first. They go to church and watch the clock more than they watch the preacher. It is a sad commentary that those who have received the grace of God don't extend it to others. The apostle Paul spoke of this when he wrote Phil. 2:19-21, "But I trust in the

Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one likeminded who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus." The city of Philippi was a Roman colony and the local church there was in need of nurturing and spiritual care. Evidently the Church of Rome was wrapped up in their own affairs and their preoccupation with the things of this life caused them to forego the privilege of ministering to the saints of God at Philippi. There were burdens to be borne and shared and at one time the Roman church was interested in helping others.

They had a reputation for sharing their faith (Rom. 1:8) but now they could care less. They appear to have lost their passion for other people but instead are now wasting their lives chasing after those things that in the end won't bring fulfilment to their innermost being.

The reason people keep searching for things is because what they originally sought after didn't satisfy them so they wake up each morning and begin the process all over again. The whole world around us is consumed with making a living and climbing the corporate ladder. They get ulcers and lose sleep worrying about these things. There should be more to life than

spending all your time thinking about what to wear to work or what to eat when you get home or where to go on the next family vacation. As Christians we are in the world but not of the world and if one is not careful even the elect can get snared in the trap of seeking after worldly things, things that won't matter in the not too distant future. Paul wrote in Col. 3:1, 2, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." The Message Bible says, "So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with

Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be

alert to what is going on around Christ - that's where the action is. See things from His perspective." Your life is defined by that which you seek after. If you search for the right things you will have a happy, blessed life and if you seek for the wrong things heartache and misery will follow you wherever you go. James 4:1 asks, "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" The

Message Bible in vs. 1-3 states, "Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again.

They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way." This is a description of the "me first" generation in which we now live. We

are told in James 1:14, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." James warns that such self-serving desires will cause divisions, wars, and fights (vs. 1, 2) and will destroy your relationship with God. James 4:4 says,

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." The solution to all this is to seek after the right things. Jesus addressed this in Matt. 6:31-33 when He said, "Therefore do not worry, and saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or

'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Jesus did not say to seek "for" the kingdom of God which is what He would have said if He was addressing this command to unbelievers. This command was spoken to those who are kingdom citizens and Jesus was saying to make the interests of Gods' kingdom your top priority. Do not be anxious about what you will eat or wear. God is faithful to provide for His own and we can have anything we can believe for. There is, however, something you should be anxious about,

something good to seek after, something that creates enthusiasm and with great compulsion drives you forward. Paul tells us what that is in Phil. 2:2-4, "fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteems others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." This is how greatness is measured for when you forget about yourself you usually start doing something others will remember. The kingdom of God is an everlasting kingdom. History tells of many great kingdoms that have ruled the known

world in times past. The Greek, Egyptian, and Babylonian kingdoms were all mighty and powerful at one time, as was the Roman Empire. But these kingdoms are no more. Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall but Luke 1:33b says,

"Of His kingdom there will be no end." As citizens of Gods' everlasting kingdom we've been made in His image and we are most like Him when our thoughts for ourselves are lost in our thoughts for others. This is what it means to "seek ye first" the kingdom of God. The word "kingdom" is a composite of the words 'king' and 'dominion' and is defined as the realm or territory where a king rules and his will is

fulfilled. In the Lords' Prayer we read in Matt. 6:10, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Gods' will being done on earth is a description of the kingdom of God. When Jesus told us to seek first the kingdom of God He was telling us to see to it that what God wants done, gets done! Stop making material things the centre of your life but seek in earnest to be a blessing to other people. Replace those desires for worldly treasures with a pursuit that has far greater significance in this life and the life to come. Be so eager for heavenly things that you leave altogether your earthly cares with Jesus. Seek God first and the rest will

follow in due course. You've only got one life to live and if you will spend it on this one thing it will be a life well spent.

The act of seeking demands intensity, a perseverance that will not be denied, and a zeal to achieve the desired objective. Every nerve in your body should tingle and throb at the thought of being used by God to help somebody else. Make a conscious choice every day that your thoughts and actions will demonstrate that the kingdom of God is your top priority in a world that is quickly passing away. Prov. 3:27 says,

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand

to do it." A noted evangelist once said, "Every-thing God has made is a solution to a problem. Your worth and significance is determined by the kinds of problems you are solving for someone." There is something in you and about you that someone else needs. Realize that you may be Gods' answer to somebody else's' prayer. Daily be diligent and look for problems to solve. Think and look for extra ways to benefit others. Go the extra mile. Jesus said, "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matt. 5:41). If you are sincere and willing God will cause you to cross paths with someone in need. It is only when we turn our eyes off of ourselves and focus on others that we will

be able to experience the true, genuine God-given joy that being a blessing to others brings. As this becomes our lifestyle it will be proven over and over again that it is indeed better to give than receive. God has a plan and purpose for each of our lives and one only has to read the first four words of the Bible to find out what His perfect will is, "In the beginning God..."

(Gen. 1:1). In the beginning of the day, put God first. Every morning when you wake up begin your day by seeking with your whole heart and soul, first and foremost, the kingdom of God. Seeking for God will give you peace that passes human understanding and joy unspeakable.

Happiness is not about having and getting, it consists in giving and serving. Jesus said to take no thought for tomorrow (Matt.6:34) and the antidote to worrying is to make a daily choice to prioritize Gods' kingdom and His righteousness. Seeking is a heart issue so make it the habit of your life, your first and ever dominant concern. Seeking first the kingdom of God is a biblical concept that touches ones' motivations and priorities including how one spends their leisure time, the goals one sets in this life, and whether or not they experience spiritual growth. The good news is that what you seek, you will find. We read in 1 Chron. 28:9, "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and

serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts

and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever" (see also Deut. 4:29).Dan.

2:44 says, "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

Gods' kingdom will never end and this tells us that there will always be people doing nice things for other people. We are here on kingdom business and the kingdom of the

King requires haste. There's a lot to be done and not much time to do it. Darkness is ruling in too many places and we've been called to be a light in a dark and sinful world. Col. 1:13 says God "has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." Gods' kingdom is a kingdom of love and love always gives and serves. We're born to love and called to serve. 1 John 3:2 says, "Beloved, now we are children of God." Jesus is the Son of God and He came to serve. We also are sons and daughters of God and we also serve. Being kingdom-minded means you're always thinking about how you can be used by God to advance His kingdom. Of course, this can't

be done if one is forever worried and concerned about the needs of this life. "Life is more than food, and the body more than clothing" (Luke 12:23). God feeds the birds of the air and clothes the lilies in the field and He'll more than take care of you. If you will take care of God's business by seeking first His kingdom, He will be faithful and just to take care of your business. Jesus said in Luke 12:32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Fathers' good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Think about that. God will give you the kingdom. This means He will provide you with opportunities to serve Him and others, to have His will fulfilled in your life. That's precisely what the kingdom of God is. We are living in the last

days and labourers are needed like never before. Labouring is not a burden as some would think. It's a joy! Eccl. 5:20 assures us that "God keeps every man busy with the joy of his heart." God will use you in whatever area brings you the most joy. Take your natural gifts and talents and place them in the hands of God to be used according to His perfect will. Eccl. 9:1 says, "For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God." When you go to work for God don't do it half-heartedly. Give it everything you've got and then some. Paul says in Rom. 12:11 to be "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the

Lord." To be "fervent in spirit" means to be aglow and burning with the Spirit of God in your heart. We are to maintain that spiritual glow in our work for the Lord and have the attitude that "whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10).

There are two ways to advance the kingdom of God. You can do something or you can help somebody else do something. God gave Moses instructions on how to build the tabernacle and in Ex. 31:2-6 (NIV) He speaks of two builders, "I have chosen Bezalel...and filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all

kinds of crafts...Moreover; I have anointed Oholiab...to help him." God has made each of us unique and different from anybody else who has ever been born and this means there are certain things you can do for the kingdom of God that nobody else can do. Even in your mothers' womb you were given special abilities and skills by God that only a person with your personality can develop and perform to the degree God wants them done. Paul encourages Timothy to "not neglect the gift that is in you" (1 Tim. 4:14). Develop those skills and turn yourself over to God to be used by Him to fulfil His purpose on planet earth. These skills may not be "religious" in a formal

sense but there is a spiritual element to everything we do. Nehemiah was a wall builder, Daniel

was a government man in Babylon, and Luke was a first century physician. When you use your job-related skills to advance the kingdom of God you are as called as any

minister. When you know you're doing what God has called you to do, whether it's preaching before thousands of people or fixing a broken pipe in the church bathroom, you will experience a lasting pleasure that can't be found anywhere else.

Paul writes in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." The Message Bible says, "Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort." You can have fun in this life but our top priority is to seek first the kingdom of God and do the work of the ministry. Faithful labourers are needed and the work gets done when you combine the natural with the spiritual. Ps. 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it." A

picture of how this works is painted for us in Ex. 17:8-13. After passing through the Red Sea the children of Israel were attacked by Amalek in Rephidim. Moses sent Joshua and his men onto the field of battle while he stood on the top of the hill with the rod of God in his hand. "And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed, and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" (vs. 11). You can have the best of the best in the natural but if you don't have the spiritual you will fail. The hands of Moses were in the air and this was a sign of faith and a symbol of victory. Eventually Moses got tired and his

arms got heavy so Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands until the

going down of the sun (vs. 12). All Aaron and Hur did was holding up an arm but it was necessary and it shows that even the smallest of tasks can take on great significance. The warriors on the ground needed the spiritual element and the battle was won because of their efforts.

We are in the kingdom and the kingdom is in us. Jesus taught us to seek with utmost urgency the expansion and the full and total development of God's kingdom. This is why we're here, why we breathe, why we're alive. The longing of kingdom citizens is for

the Lord to rule over their lives, for Godly character and behaviour to be fully displayed in all that they do and say, and for the kingdom to extend into every life and corner of the globe. The highest form of happiness comes when one is in perfect submission to Gods' will which must be obeyed perfectly, readily, and unceasingly.

We cannot call Him "King" and not do His will. When you pray "Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done" you prove the sincerity of your prayer by labouring every day to make a positive difference in the lives of other people. There must be a willingness to forsake all to become a disciple of Jesus (see Luke 14:33) and it begins not outwardly

but in the heart. Heart decisions determine the direction your life will take and direction determines destiny. When you make a quality decision to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, it will set you on a course of action that will determine the outcome of your life. Hopefully it will be a life where you are so caught up in the things of God that you don't even think about yourself. If Gods' will were done on the earth there would be peace between the nations and love and happiness in all our homes. It is only because men will not do the will of God and seeks first His kingdom that things are the way they are. Pray for His will to be done on earth and that He would help you do His

will flawlessly with a sense of fervency and undivided devotion. Only then will His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com>

Living in Prophecy and Not Knowing It

Luke 23:7

“And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.”

One of the amazing things about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is how much prophecy was being fulfilled, yet they could not see it. One of those instances was in the verse above. When Jesus was being tried by

Pilate, it was said that Jesus was a Galilean. That area was ruled by Herod, and Pilate's thought was that he could dump this on Herod to politically save himself. It just so happened that Herod was in Jerusalem at that time. Why this is so important is because if Herod had not been in Jerusalem, then Jesus would not have died during the time of the Passover, which would have gone against Scriptures. They were living in prophecy and didn't even know it.

What is sad is how often people are living in prophecy and can't see it. The prodigal son lived in prophecy that sin's pleasure is only for a season, and he never saw it.

Belteshazzar lived in prophecy by rebelling against the Word of God and never saw it. Peter lived in prophecy when he denied Jesus three times and never saw it. Samson lived in prophecy when Delilah was continually trying to find the source of his strength and he couldn't see it. We could go on and on telling of people in the Scriptures who were told that something was going to happen if they went down a certain path, but they never saw it. Sadly, people today make the same mistakes. They think they are the exception to Scriptures, but they are not. People are told they will destroy their lives if they make a certain decision, and

their stubbornness blinds them to the fact that they are living in prophecy as they head down a destructive path. People oftentimes know that immorality destroys lives, but they think they are the exception and head down the road of prophecy and never see their eminent destruction. There are some things you can do to avoid this.

First, never think you will be the exception to God's Word. If God's Word says that something will lead to destruction, then you would be wise to avoid that path. Many people have fulfilled the prophecy of God's Word concerning sin and never saw it because they thought they were the exception. Let me make this very clear,

YOU ARE NOT THE EXCEPTION!

Second, listen to people who are telling you that you are headed down a wrong path. We become deafened by our own pride and desires and can't see that we are living in prophecy. When someone tells you that you are headed towards destruction, listen to what they are saying and change your ways. When someone tells you that if you make a certain decision that it will hurt you, then you would be wise not to fulfil their prophecy and avoid that decision. Don't live in the prophecy of someone's caution because you are too proud to admit that they could be right.

Let me ask you, are you living in prophecy and can't see it? You must always remember that there is a price to sin. You are not the exception. Sin has a way of blinding you to the fact that you are living in the prophecy of what sin does to you. If you will keep a tender heart and listen when someone warns you, you will find that you will not become the fulfilment of someone's prophecy. Set your pride aside and listen because sin's prophecy of destruction has never been wrong.

Three Foundational Keys to Growth

Acts 6:1

"And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration."

The growth of the early church was nothing short of miraculous. It is great to be a part of a growing church. This early church went from a small handful of disciples under Christ's leadership to thousands. Yet, you see the church's growth stop in the verse above. The church had become so large that the Apostles could not keep up with the *"daily ministration."* They

developed a plan to keep the church growing and that plan was to delegate some of their responsibilities to others. This decision led to the church's continued growth to the point where they eventually turned their world upside down for Christ.

Anybody can grow things to a certain level, but there will come a point when that growth will level off and continued growth will be determined by what they do from that point. Yes, growth is up to God, but He blessed the decisions of the Apostles to divide their duties so that they could continue to grow. There were three things the early church had to overcome to see continued growth. If your church, ministry

or business is going to continue to grow, then these three things must be done. First, organization is one of the foundational keys to growth. You will never grow beyond your organization. You cannot grow with a crisis-mode decision making process. Organization helps you to avoid many pitfalls with personalities and open ended responsibilities because you close those open ends which help people to work in their own areas preventing personality clashes. This early church was well organized, and you also must be organized if you want to grow. Second, delegation is another foundational key to growth. The Apostles could only handle so much responsibility, and their only answer was to

delegate some responsibilities to others. Delegation not only frees the leader to continue doing what is important, but it also helps others to grow. Don't be the type of leader who is jealous of others getting some compliments. When you delegate, you are not losing control but you are gaining more control if you are organized. When you fail to delegate, you have set a ceiling on any potential growth.

The third foundational key to growth is to reproduce. The church's growth stagnated when they didn't send out. God sent persecution to force this church to send people out, and it was at that point when they turned the world upside down. A

healthy organization must always send people out or they will die. Keeping everyone to build an empire will create inbred growth which stagnates a church, ministry or business. You must be willing to send people out to start more churches or businesses if you want to stay healthy.

These three foundational keys are important to the growth of any church or business. If your growth has stagnated, then look at these three areas and see what you need to work on. These three areas will keep you growing and influencing more people for Jesus Christ.

<http://trafficbuilder2.com>

Joshua Brian Richards:

Mrs Erlinet Quizo Richards:

Reverend Brian Richards:

**Word of Faith Ministries International
(Registered as Charity) ABN:**

**39326050887 Charitable Donations
Welcomed <http://revbrianrichards.com>**

**Revised by Reverend Brian Richards Word
of Faith Ministries international.**

**<http://revbrianrichards.com> Raising Money
For Evangelism Through The Sale Of
Books For the last few years, missionaries
have found it necessary in selling various
types of books to enable them to raise the
money needed to minister the word of God
to those who are yet to be reached. These**

books are mostly in the form of e-books, autobiographies and hard copies. They teach about religious history and quite a number of other things which have taken place around the world in the past 25 years. These books also carry teachings about evangelizing the word of God in some Asia Minor countries within the Asian continent. They have been written by a Reverend who is a knowledgeable writer and laden with information for those who really wish to learn more about God's goodness. Buying them is one way of showing appreciation to the servants of God who have worked tirelessly to reach people in the most remote parts of Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Himalayas, Pakistan, Philippines, China, Salonika and

India among other countries that require much ministry work this small but powerful book is devoted to the many colleges that I have ready to follow, and alternately lead by examples set down here. The books are lowly priced and most can afford to purchase them. Once payment has been received, the e-book is available immediately for download. These books on Christian literature are well written and are available to be ordered online at any time.

Other than being able to download the electronic versions online, hard copy versions can be obtained from the associated publishing house. These

hardcover's are of the highest quality and can provoke inner thought in someone who has a deep desire to learn more about Christianity and the impact which it has had on people's lives. The documents sold by the missionary cover many areas of religious studies and can impart knowledge to anyone who is interested to learn. They appeal to people of different age groups. There is also a long list of high impact titles which a person can select from. Some of which are general in nature while others are very specific. Missionary work is at times complex and there are many challenges which the missionaries cover. One of the greatest challenges they face most of the time is financial shortage. If

they don't have enough money to finance their activities, they will find it quite hard meeting the objectives which they have. However, through selling books and Christian literature, they can help raise money to keep them evangelizing to places which have not been reached before.

The missionaries require moving from one location to another, pay for rental and medical expenses among others. Most of these missionaries are not supported by their local churches. Through donations and together with book sales is what they solely rely on to keep them moving forward with evangelical work. Appeals for support in this cause are needed due to the fact that

God's work is being carried out. People who buy these books should understand that they are supporting a worthy cause when they purchase them. There are many offers available on purchasing the e-book or hardcover. Due to the ease of the purchasing process, there is no excuse to not support this worthy cause.

<http://revbrian-msociety.com>

About the Author

REVEREND BRIAN RICHARDS.

**“DIVINE CONNEXIONS OF CHRIST”
affiliated**

**WORD OF FAITH MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL**

P.O. BOX 1116 TAREE.

**NEW SOUTH WALES 2430 phone 02
65512418.**

bri90052@bigpond.net.au

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
A.B.N.39 326 050 887**

Dear Reader,

**My name is Rev Brian Richards and my
current work and**

**primary purpose is to raise funds for the
mission field of evangelism of the gospel of
the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippines, China,
and all Asia minor it has been a very hard**

and tiresome job considering I do not have any main line denomination financial backing, as an independent registration my ministry is self supported through my own contributions and them of my partners and affiliates whom give my books and products that are available on a donation basis

<http://revbrianrichards.com>

all my products are sold on a commissions of 70%

commissions on all sales however only those people selected as in need can be affiliates due to the nature of the funds only being for the needy people; My plan and purpose of this brief note is to let you know that revbrian-bookstore, and Divine Connexions

of Christ, & Word of Faith Ministries International are all combined into one ministry with one Australian Charity Business number: 39 326 050 887 Hoping you understand, sincerely yours in Christ

Reverend Dr. Brian Richards.a.i.p.c.[M.A.C.A.] (Head of missions) “Who is a disciplined disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ” all references are King James Version of the Holy Bible translated out of the original tongues and with previous translations diligently compared and revised. This book is written from accumulation of

notes how God has spoken to me over the last 20 years of study. The inspiration from the Spirit of God compelled me to write and to continue to write, this book whilst I was convalescing from a car accident nursing a fracture in my back, through the whiplash on impact. I had been very concerned about things that we were hearing in churches about the so-called faith movement. Even though there was nothing wrong with the word that is being preached because it is all scripture. There is something wrong with the delivery and more importance should be put on the fruit, rather than the power of the gifts. Yes many writers have said this before, and it needs to be said again, that sign & wonders should be following those

that believe. Not the other way around, I see people saying there is a anointing over here, that makes people roll around the floor laughing, or miracles happening here and there. I am not against the miracles or the joy of the Lord However I think we all can get our eyes of the real fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22- this is the fruit we should be looking for. If we hear people claiming to have outstanding miracles in their life, but they are still sinning like an unsaved person there is something wrong. I was a drunk 25 years ago and got filled with the new wine of the Holy Ghost this was a miracle because I never drank like an alcoholic again. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in my life

still from the touch of the master's hand; 25 years later one touch from God changed my life forever. I have observed that the Faith movement as we know it, has been confused with other things, and Satan has taken full advantage of this time of whilst young Christians have been battered, and alluded into something that is not of God. The charismatic people have been drawing people, and counterfeiting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some of these church leaders have waited so long for the move of God that they have embraced the charismatic ways that is going on now, not realising that that they too have been alluded away from the real signs & wonders of God. The God that I know always, always, always shows

his fruit in a person's life if a real miracle has taken place. I have talked to Christians that say they are sorry they ever got involved with the Church for one reason or another; well that is not the fruit of the Spirit. There should be always a love for God that no one can take away (Romans 8:35) tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or peril, or sword? In all theses things we are more than conquerors, no power present, or to come will be able to take the true believer from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord; this is the fruit we should be looking for.

The miracle power of God we received a long time ago folks so walk yea in him. In Him we live, in Him we move, in Him we have our being. What Greater miracle can there be that can not be counterfeited. I can see that there has been taught old things are past away and all things have become new! And now we are to call those things that be not as though they really are. O course that is what the word of God say's after all. Yes but there is a right way and a wrong way of application of this faith, some people I know expect a magic formula to set them free from their sticky past with-out doing any work themselves. I praise God for that if it happened that way for you, but I have

talked to thousands of people about this in deliverance. If some one wanted to start a church and say healing of the memories seminar to night he would fill any building. People want the magic without any effort on their part; deliverance doesn't come from the touch of the pastor's hand or the stroke of a pen. I come from obedience to scripture and repentance is always required. There has to be a turning away from old ways, old thoughts, deeds, and actions, and then true deliverance comes. Yes God will hasten his word to perform a miracle of deliverance, if we can hasten our repentance from dead works. However most of the people I have spoken too it took a working out of something that God had

worked into our lives. (Philippians 2:12-13)

God works in you whilst YOU work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Satan has tricked people all over the world in an expression that people say here in Australia forget it mate' she'll be right. Satan wants you to try to forget things by sweeping them under the carpet and years later when they show there ugly head we say well wonder where that came from. It was UN-confessed, UN-repented sin that is where it came from, and was allowed to grow; now it has become a strong hold that the devil is using to keep a person in bondage, and now

needs deliverance. God spoke to me and gave me Teaching and summons, that I said why Lord, why am I having all these wonderful teachings and summons. The Lord said this is what I want you to put into a book, the book “Who is a disciplined disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ” is first written for my benefit. As I was much of the time depressed over my afflictions, I have still not heard, from the driver whom slammed into the back of me at an estimated speed 130klms per hour. I am alive to day by the grace of God, and whilst being in a bad state of depression God started to speak to me in a way that I had not known before. He said all what you have ever learned about over coming, being

victorious in this life you have to put into practice now. So whilst I had time on my hands I enrolled into University to study the Bachelors of Social Sciences, but this did not satisfy the hunger I had in my soul, and my heart to improve my self and to get well. So by

seeking God further than I had ever gone before through desperation the Lord started to wake me up at night and give me teaching and summons. I got that way that I would not go to bed knowing that if I did I would have to get up again to write down what the Lord was talking to me about. I spent many hours at night just writing down what the Lord gave me to write,

sometimes until 5 & 6 o'clock in the morning I would go to bed for a couple hours before going about my day. With Doctors appointments and Physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy this kept me very busy and exhausted most of the time for the first two years. The title of this book and the purpose of writing it is that I could see the superficial so called Christian by name only. However not really disciplined in the word of God at all. I thought and indeed still do believe that a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, is one whom is disciplined and obedient to His word. My heart cry is that by writing this book that it will bring, the right correction, and direction to the reader who wants to live an

overcoming, victorious Christian life for God. Hence comes the title

“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

This bookanswers questions that have

plagued people down through the ages. It will show the way God has covenanted with the human race to get them back to Himself. It will show the reason God has taken various actions to bring people back to Himself. Here is the problem God is addressing. God created the human race to bring glory and honour to Him. The human race was to have fellowship with God, to have the same kind of a relationship that is expressed in a marriage. God would be the

groom and the people of God would be His bride. The two would live in perfect harmony with one another. There would be a mutual love for one another. God would be the protector and provider and the people of

God would be greatly blessed through this arrangement. The problem came when the human race decided to follow the advice of God's archenemy, Satan, rather than God. Satan convinced Eve that God was lying to her about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told her, "You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be open, and you shall be as

gods, knowing good and evil" - Genesis 3:4, 5. She ate the forbidden fruit. When she did not die, she convinced her husband, Adam, to eat it. This act of disobedience turned the human race over to Satan. From that time forward the human race became God's enemy. Satan "rewired" the human race with a propensity placed in them that wars against God. This "body of sin and death" cannot be tamed. It must be removed. See Romans 6-8. So the "wife" of God committed spiritual adultery with God's archenemy. She decided she did not want to have any more to do with God. She would be her own god. She would be god. This is like having a companion you dearly

love, without whom you felt your life would not be complete, deciding to commit adultery with a person who would cause him or her endless heartaches. Your loved one thought he or she was getting a good deal. You knew better. From this time you decide to get him or her back at any cost to yourself. If you were God, what would you do to win back the love you had received from your adulterous "wife?" Would you stand by and let this one be destroyed without attempting to rescue him or her from utter ruin? Love does not work that way. Love attempts to find a way to bring your loved one back. God has done this through covenants. Here are the covenants

God has made with mankind (us) to bring us back into His loving embrace:

1. The covenants God made with Adam and Eve extend from Creation to Noah. They were to be fruitful and populate the earth. They were to have rule over all the earth above all other living things. They were to eat fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They were to have a close personal relationship with God.

This was the original covenant God made with the human race. Everything was heavenly until Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This brought curses on them and the earth. Decay set in and all of creation has

been suffering every since. This is where suffering originated.

2. The covenant God made with Noah. By the time we reach Noah's generation, the human race had become a total disgrace. People had become violent to one another and "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually." There was total confusion. God had to do something to save the human race from total destruction. There were only eight people who loved God in this generation. God used a worldwide flood to destroy the earth. All human and animal life was destroyed. Noah, his family and representatives of all animal life were saved in a large ark (boat).

As a result of this, capital punishment was introduced and the eating of the flesh of "clean" animals was allowed. The ages of human life begin to be shortened. God promised He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. 3. The covenant God made with Abraham. This was made between God and Abraham. It was to extend through his family to bring "a blessing to all the nations of the earth." This is God's first step in bringing Jesus into the world. The promise was made in Genesis 3:15 and set in operation through Abraham's descendants. This was the start of God's bringing the nation of Israel into being. It was through the Jews that Jesus

came into this world to be our Saviour and Lord.

4. The covenant God made with Moses. This is the period of time when God set up the Law to

give the human race His will for them. This was all temporary until He could make it work through a personal experience with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Law was to act as "a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ."

5. The covenant God has made with the whole human race is now in effect. This covenant is called the New Covenant. This is all explained in Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament Scriptures of the

Christian faith. This covenant fulfils all the promises found in the Old Testament concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's last covenant. Jesus is God's "love gift" to the whole human race to woo us - His adulterous wife - back to Himself. If we do not accept this one, there is no more hope for us. It will be completed when Jesus comes back to set up a new heaven and new earth for those who have accepted His "peace offering." John 3:5-21 applies here. The next event will be an extension of this covenant. Those who have accepted the terms of the New Covenant will be a part of Jesus' eternal kingdom. They will reign with Him forever. They will be His bride that will be without spot or wrinkle. They

will be holy and perfect in their love for God and others. We call these people born-again, Spirit-filled Christians. We may wonder why God allowed some things to happen that are against His nature. We may refer to these things as Bible contradictions. Before we get too heated up over these "gross inconsistencies" of God, we need to understand there was a time when God "winked" at our ignorance, but now calls all of us to repentance.

God's revelation of Himself and His will for us has been progressive. First, He dealt with the human race through their conscience. When this failed, He dealt with us through His law.

After we failed to come to Him through the law, He extended His love and mercy to us through

His Only Begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We now have the full revelation of God's will for us. We also have God's power and glory that can enable us to love and serve Him as we reach out to others who are in need. Thus, God's will and grace is clearly shown to us through the New Covenant of God's grace. This means there are no more excuses left for us to reject God any longer. God's invitation is extended to all of us in Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride says, Come. And let him that is

thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."Hence comes the title of the book you're reading now! I was going to call it *COME OUT OF THE DREAM WORLD*. However the Spirit of God intervened and **said** "Walking In Darkness

& Having No Light" this is what the Spirit of the Lord wants to deal with here and now! *Hence comes the title of the book you're reading now!* So this has been the introduction of the book however you can see from the length introduction the basics necessary to continue to bring more light from the coming scriptures, that we shall use from this continual revelations of

coming out of darkness and being translated into His marvellous light!

“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

How to open our eyes to more light and stop

walking in spiritual darkness! Firstly we will have to open Spiritual doors by opening our heart to more worship. Yes worship is a major key to receiving revelation knowledge from God. So for the next few pages we will talk about how to open Spiritual doors when leading worship! Notice I said leading worship the leadership has to start with you! Are you leading yourself to worship or are you being led to worship by an inner force, or desire? This

desire could be a favourite song, a tune a voice, not necessarily the Spirit of God. All words and all music have spirit attached to it! We have to be sure it is by the Holy Spirit of God. Worship is all about the world of giving glory to God and it's done in that Spirit and if it is done in the spirit it changes the whole outlook of glorifying God. The Holy Spirit is there to lead us to worship him at His throne. The Israelites were told that the when you see the Ark of Covenant move you are to move with it, they had to pack their tents, bags, food and all their good s and follow the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night so. So it resembles the Spirit of God when we worship, as it leads us let us follow why you

may say why? Looking at the passage above you will see that the Israelites in the wilderness were never given a warning they just found things moving and God's spirit and cover moving and it's the same with the worshipping in the spirit. God spirit moves when we worship, when the Holy Spirit moves he open doors and realms for us to follow and when you are worshipping and you do not see where the Holy Spirit is going you will not enter into the Holy of Holies. Hebrews 10:16 Romans 8:14 Romans 12:1-2 "1) Early in the morning Joshua and all the

Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before

crossing over. (2) After three days the officers went throughout the camp, (3) giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

(4) Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." Joshua 3:1-4 The chief aim of worship is to glorify God in his presence so we need to make sure that we are tuned in and to listen and to also to obey and follow the spirit of God when He leads us and

guides us to God's throne. As I am writing I am Listening to listening to the Spirit of God within me (Romans 8:28) that is what we need to develop that listening ear, that obedient heart, that ability to see and follow the Spirit. What do you think about doors of worship? This is the heart we need to have! God Bless You as you receive more revelation of

.....“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

Romans 8: 14 them that are led of the Spirit of God are the sons of God. This whole chapter is talking about how to walk in the Spirit of the living God, verse 28... and then meaning when we do the whole

chapter, then verse 28.. applies all things work together for good according to his good pleasure.O.k. now we are getting an idea of what this book title is all about **“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”**

Isaiah 50: 10 this is a ministry of darkness that is an absence of light and if we do not understand this concept of darkness it will wipe you out” □ We have to trust God and his word by faith and not by sight. □ . Luke 22:53 not this darkness.....

but this darkness is much different Isaiah 50: 10 this can be a man still walking by faith! But seam’s to be in a dark place? Asking himself what happens now? And the answer is verse 10 “Who is among you that

fearth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, which walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. (Job) said “I cannot find God” This may not fit your doctrine and is against all that we have believed in faith! So yes it may not fit your doctrine, but it will fit your experience: some times we do walk in darkness even walking by faith! It’s an awful experience when we cannot see any more where God is leading us. It sure does take faith to continue, when all seems quite inside and outside, we seemed to be walking in darkness, like a battery gone in your touch or flash light. □ . We are children of light but walking in darkness and a sense of loss.

Most of us give up at this point and say “Well I guess this was not God after all, I must have made a mistake”. NO child of God does not think that way what God has begun in you He will also finish. You are a work in progress we delay the actions of God when we go into doubt and fear and unbelief. This is the way to think, well I am happy being Holy, and being Holy is pleasing God, not always being Holy means that you going to be happy! However you will still have the joy of the Lord, because joy is a spiritual power force that comes from the spirit of God. Joy depends of the fruit of Gods Spirit does not depend on your feelings of happiness. *Job relates to this*

“When I am tried, I will come forth as gold, though He sleigh me, I will still trust Him.” I DON’T KNOW WHERE HE IS! But God knows where I am at!

The apostle Paul said acts 26: 2 *Paul said I think myself happy?* Abraham Lincoln the USA President of old said a man is as happy as he puts his mind to be! O yes dear reader being led of the Spirit of God can some times be a “Ministry Of Darkness, is the absence of light” The same God that gave the Ten Commandments also gives us 365 promises one for each day of the year! God give promises, not explanations. I would rather live on a promise of God, rather than an explanation! The question is

will we still love God, in the darkness, rather than in the sunlight? The whole world is made in darkness, as well as sunlight, or else or there would be mostly desert, and sand, no life in the desert? So as I see it faith in God, is better than an answer!

JOB ask God 181 questions, and God answer his questions, and asked Job 184 questions with his answers. The just shall live by faith, not by explanations! However we should never doubt in darkness, what God has told us in light! Entrance of Gods word gives light, so let the word of God be a Lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Let this be your flash light, but don't

let the batteries go out, by stepping out of his word.....””*Jesus and his word are one*” “Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

Become a Positive Confession Fan

Joshua and Caleb, came back to Moses from the land Overcoming Discouragement with a good report Other available-Books Joshua and Caleb, came back to Moses from the land of Eshcol (Deuteronomy 1:24-28) with a good report saying yes there are giants in the land but don't worry Moses we can take them! But there were twelve that went into the land, and only two came back with a good report saying all is well we can take them. This is the size of the

men they had to fight to take the land. Which way would your report go?"Would you say this is too much for me"? or would you take on the fight! the other report was that they had the city walls that went up so far as the heavens and they were giants so big they can swallow us up. We cannot possibly win the fight! BUT GOD HAD ALREADY TOLD THEM HE WOULD GO BEFORE THEM! So what are we going to believe the Joshua & Caleb's report? which was a good report or are we going to believe what God said was an evil report? This was an evil report only because God had already said I shall go before you and prepare the way but you shall have to fight them.(Deuteronomy 1:

27) they murmured & complained about how hard it was. They thought God has hated us and delivered into the hands of the enemy the Amorites, will destroy us now! They. The children of Israel were discouraged because of the hard road ahead and the trials of faith were very hard and too hard for some. (Numbers 21: 4-10) They looked at the ways before them and became discouraged. Moses had already said to the Israelites that from Horeb to kadesh-barnea that this is a 11 days journey. However because of the doubt, fear and unbelief that God was with them, and would deliver them from the enemy, it took them 38 years to posses the Promised Land.

How about you to-day are you going to believe God's word, or are you only going to believe what you can see! by the outward eyes. We are told from the word of God that "You must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3-5) This kingdom of God is righteous, peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost. This is the way we enter into the promises of God to-day by being born again, its available for the asking! You can ask God now by saying this pray with faith! God please forgive me of my unbelief and past sins, and except me into your Kingdom. I believe that Jesus died for me, to pay the price of my sin. Then He rose again from the dead, it's a mystery that I don't know how he did it.

However I choose to believe it to-day and except Jesus into my life, and into my heart. I believe I receive right now as I pray, and I thank you for your forgiveness. In Jesus name Amen, thank you Amen. If you have said this prayer today in faith then please tell some body so we can encourage you some more! (pray now) the prayer and leave a message directly to "Divine Connexions")

O.K. nothing has changed over the past two thousand years, only the way we look at things. Do we trust in his name: The Great I Am: (not was, or shall be!) He is still "The Great I Am" Dear Reader I am reminded of just one of the many a times I witnessed the

amazing grace of God. I remember a man in the subway of the central railway station in the city of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. So if you know it you may see this in your minds, there was a voice of singing in the distance. However because of the subway the voice travelled far and wide throughout the railway station. So I purposed in my mind to go see whom this voice belonged too. As I got closer I could tell that this voice was from a mature person maybe some-one elderly. I was intrigued to know now whom this voice was! And why...what appeared to be a not real good male voice, singing amazing grace over and over again, and again. Like as if it was the only song he knew, it was not a good voice, but not a bad voice either. There was

however something compelling me to find out whom this voice was,

and where it was coming from: So by now I was in a hurry to find out, where this was situated, I could hear coins being thrown down to the floor, and bouncing of the tiled walls. This singer's voice was getting louder as I was getting near to finding out whom this voice was. I turned the corner towards where the voice was coming from, and what I visualised will stay in my mind for ever!

There was an old man dressed in what was once upon a time, a soldier's uniform. This old worn out soldier was missing a leg and an arm, was sitting very sloppy on a concrete tiled floor of the subway. He looked at me

approaching closer to see that he only had one eye that was fully functional the other was poorly and sick. This old soldier had a plastic guitar string tied to his chest: where he strummed with his one hand that he had singing his favourite song “amazing grace” I could not help myself, I was forced to ask him why did he sing this same song over and over again. He said “it’s my favourite song” don’t you like it? I said “Yes but what have you got to be so thankful for! you got only one eye functional and one leg missing, you got one arm missing, you look like you are starved and begging for your next meal, and someone has pinned a strung an old broken plastic guitar looked like it came off the dump, attached around your neck and chest?

And YOU are singing about this? This old soldier answered me by saying “Sir you are looking at what is missing! I am looking at what I can do with what is left? The old soldier continued to sing “Amazing Grace How sweet...” So you see we have to be grateful all the time, because the amazing grace of God is very real for all of us, if we are to look for it and remember!

Without God grace we all would die, in our sins, the amazing grace of God of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ has saved us all that would turn to him with repentance. ISAIAH 50: 1-10 This whole chapter is referring to some one that has doubt of the way God is

leading them! Where is the bill of divorcement! Has God told

you he has changed his mind about you? No he said set your face like flint, and don't be ashamed when things get hard to understand, why things get hard. We are like walking in darkness, but we are not to forget in darkness, what God has spoken to us in the light! In what light? In the light of his word, remember "Jesus and the Word are one" *Most of our fears are fear of rejection, you are no Robinson Caruso! Most of us are like the rest of us! Yes?....well make a firm decision to come out of fear, do not be caught just waiting, passiveness, what is the worst thing that can happen anyway? Are*

you prepared to pay the price to go all the way through to being free from your fears? O.K. then stand on the word of God (2 Timothy 1:7) Hold fast to you confession of faith (proverbs 29: 25) see this scripture reminds me of fear being broken when we trust in the Lord. "Fear comes knocking on the door Faith answers and finds no-one there"

Dear brothers & sisters in the Lord, we have to live by faith in the bible scriptures, if we are to overcome all the worldly ways. (Psalms 27: 1) The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom

Shall I fear? The strength of the Lord is my

life. To overcome fear we are to stop comparing ourselves to other people, and overcome a negative self image. Isaiah 2: 11-12 We are to stop regarding man's opinions of us! The lofty looks of man shall be humbled. God has never programmed anyone to fail (2 Corinthians 2:14) Now thanks be to God whom always causeth us to triumph in Christ.... *The watch dog of your heart is called rejection open your heart to truth and get rid of rejection and the fear thereof: There is no fear in the Love of God, so we meditation on the love of God casting down all vain imaginations (2 Corinthians 10: 5) and walk in love again, and get*

rid of rejection. So now we deal with biblical idolatry this is darkness again. God is committed to character not talent. Here is a test of convictions that said

“There is something I will not change for anything” O yea man.....you will change your opinions, but you will die for your convictions! O yea some “people have a love for what God gave” yet the neglect the God whom gave it? O.K. so now we deal with biblical idolatry

Why are Catholics accused of idolatry for their use of statues and icons? Okay, first off. What's the commandment say?

Exodus 20:2-6 from the New American Bible: I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. So that seems pretty clear, right? Just worship the Lord, your God, and nobody else. Don't Create idols, like that golden calf that the Hebrews are busy making to honour Ba'al. That's a no-no! Aaron, Moses' brother, is trying to keep order down at the base of Mount Sinai while his brother is spending

forty days atop Mount Sinai with God. The Hebrews are getting impatient. So what do they do? Start worshipping another God. God just performed countless miracles before the Hebrews, freeing them from Pharaoh -- turning the Nile to blood, parting the Red Sea, etc--and already they've become distracted. It's easy to see why this is the First Commandment, huh? You have ONE GOD. That's it! Stick with Him. Forever. It's that simple. Catholics (and Lutherans) define the First Commandment as including the prohibition of idols. Different religions number their Commandments differently, however, which leads to a different placement of

"You shall not make for yourself a grave image." Most people probably forget this, thinking the commandments are the commandments, but not every Decalogue is created equally.

Catholics take their numbering of the commandments from Deuteronomy 5, as opposed to Exodus 20. This numbering is important theologically. Protestants throw in a man's wife among his possessions for things that you should not covet... I'm sure Henry VIII appreciated this. The Catholic/Lutheran numbering, on the other hand, regards the phrase "graven images" differently, throwing it in with #1, "You shall have no other gods before me."

Now, why is the veneration of images of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saints NOT idolatry? Let me first say that if God did not intend for his loyal disciples to make statues and holy images, WHY did He command Moses to adorn the Ark the Covenant (THE most holy relic of the Hebrew people) with statues of cherubim???

Notice that God instructs Moses in the making of the Ark in almost the same breath as the Commandments. Clearly, God is not contradicting himself: there must be something wrong with our interpretation of what is a "graven image." Why is the Golden Calf different from the

Golden Cherubim, or even the Bronze serpent that Moses raises in the desert? The answer is on some levels obvious, but let's get down to the etymology. There are two kinds of veneration: latreia and douleia.

Latreia is the veneration due to God, alone.

Veneration of the saints or anything that is not God, Himself, in the form of latreia, is doctrinally forbidden by the Catholic Church. The veneration of religious pictures or Icons in the form of douleia, however, is not only allowed but obligatory. The difference is subtle sometimes, and may be confusing to the casual observer. Lastly, let's look at the writings of St. John of Damascus on this subject, because he was a

great fighter of heresy in his time AND because he makes it so simple. In his work, *On the Divine Image*, which was written in the 8th century in response to the Iconoclastic Controversy that would eventually lead to the Great Schism of 1054, St. John argues, while depicting the invisible God is indeed wrong, the Incarnation, in which "the Word became flesh"(Jn 1:14), indicates that the invisible God became visible. Consequently, it is permissible to depict Jesus Christ. St. John writes, "When He who is bodiless and without form... existing in the form of God, empties Himself and takes the form of a servant in substance and in stature and is

found in a body of flesh, then you draw His image."

Jesus desires that we know him. He wants us to understand what it meant for him to be born into the poverty of a manger, what it meant for him to hang on the wood of a cross. Are manger scenes and crucifixes to be considered false idols? Every saint and angel in our manger scenes (e.g. the Virgin Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel) is pointing to Christ and honouring him alone.

Our God is a visible God. O Come Let Us Adore Him! This is certainly the season for it. *Come out of the deception and come into this light of his word because "Jesus and the word are one"*

Your Church: House of God or Ichabod?

Most of us have surely heard the church building on the corner referred to as "the house of God." Have you ever heard the Word "Ichabod"? Other than the first name of the schoolmaster character in Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" - the word "Ichabod"

was originally mentioned in Scripture. "Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory

has departed from Israel!" "Because the ark of God had been captured," (1Sam. 4:21). The original meaning of Ichabod is this: "the glory has departed". Logic tells us that the word "has departed" denotes simply

that there used to be glory, and now there isn't. The term originated in reference to what many refer to as "the Shekinah (SHE'KEE'NA) glory" which is the manifestation of the glory of God in the temple at Jerusalem - the place where God resided. This "Shekinah" was displayed in several ways in Scripture including the burning bush, the bright light when the angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds, etc. The Shekinah was only present when the Ark of the Covenant was in its proper place, in the Holy of Holies. Historically, whenever the Ark was NOT in the temple, the temple was said to be "Ichabod." The real substance and

meaning of the temple was missing. It was merely an empty habitation at that point because the essence - the glory of God - was gone. There are many references to the "glory of God" throughout Scripture. It is the direct reminder of God's power and interaction with His people. The word "glory" is one that is often misunderstood. Though most would agree that the word implies praise, honour and fame, a more complete definition includes the words splendour, magnificence and radiance. Now,

apply that definition to any verse regarding "the glory of God" and it changes its meaning in a powerful way. Today, in this

Age of Grace, the glory of God is manifest through the lives of those truly serving Him. Notice: through the LIVES - NOT the buildings. Our lives are intended to form the visible manifestation of God's splendour, magnificence and radiance. Until we renew our minds to this truth, it isn't happening'. When it does, through the ministry of a relative few, we see them as being "more holy" or "more spiritual" than the rest of us, as if they set the standard to which the rest of us can aspire. That's unfortunate for, if we are to compare ourselves with anyone, that person should be Jesus. He alone is our standard. The Scripture refers to us, the followers of Jesus, as "living sacrifices." This is

commonly referred to as an oxymoron (a la "Jumbo Shrimp", "Found Missing", "Microsoft Works") for a sacrifice is dead and, therefore, cannot possibly be living. Notice, however, that the phrase is not "tithing sacrifices", "preaching sacrifices" or any other kind of sacrifices. No, the term is **LIVING** sacrifices, denoting life, day to day, and moment to moment sacrificial living. In other words, doing everything as unto the Lord God (1 Corinthians 10:31). (Read this one) get someone to read Romans 12: 1-2 Do you get it? We, the Church - NOT the edifices, but the PEOPLE - are supposed to be the containers of the glory of God. (Romans 8: 14) Better yet, the **DISPENSERS** of the

glory of God. Jesus called us "the light of the world" -

NOT our buildings and certainly Not our manmade denominations. Too often, even

Protestants have the attitude that God is in the church house. Friends & brethren God doesn't show up anywhere, including church services, until you get there. You bring Him WITH you! (1 John 4: 4) Too often, the gatherings taking place within these structures are replete with unscriptural ritualism demonstrated nowhere in Scripture, or they've become mere social clubs that rarely reveal lives that have been radically changed.

(2 Corinthians 5: 17-21) The bodies in there, going through endless motions, and droning worship songs, too often offer lip service with hearts far from God. The glory has gone. The individuals, and the organization which they comprise, have become Ichabod. (The Glory has departed) So, is your church an Ichabod or is it the house of God? (you make the difference)

It's NEITHER! God doesn't live in ANY building anywhere on the face of the earth. He lives within YOU. In fact YOU are the Ark of the New Covenant, carrying with you the very presence and power of God EVERYWHERE you go. Problem? The

vast majority of those who call themselves "Christian" (literally meaning, "a little Christ") don't believe that. Not only that, most of us have never been taught that. Instead, we've been conditioned to believe God is "out there" somewhere. (We been conditioned to believe in being a sinner) We hear songs like "God is watching us" by Bette Midler and "What if God were one of us?" and we base our theology on this stuff rather than the Word of God. So, is God really within you, desiring to live THROUGH you or isn't He? Does the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives within you or is God a liar? Will His disciples REALLY do greater

things than He did or was Jesus out of His mind? Does the verse "In Him we live and move and have our being" apply to anyone you know? The truth is, God DOES live within us and He does some pretty incredible things through those who have decided to believe that

every Word of Scripture is absolute truth.

(Jesus and the Word are ONE) Major problem? As I see it, there are three: (A)

Preachers aren't preaching this, (B) Christians are so biblically illiterate, we have no idea what's Scripture and what's from Poor preacher up front, and (C) We are so busy doing things the prescribed way

that we are oblivious to what the Lord is wanting His Church to do next.....

All this can change but it starts with a radical, life altering decision, one that every individual Believer has to make on his or her own. Don't wait for your pastor or priest to make the choice. Neither should you wait for your denomination to get an edict visitor from headquarters. YOU alone must make the choice

to raise your head up from among the crowd. When the lemmings & goats are headed west, go ahead and head east. But be warned: one man's obedience is another man's rebellion. The traditional Church is notorious for attacking anyone who follows

the cloud. The things we see as commonplace were once considered radical. From church music to altar calls, numerous aspects of church have suffered from "friendly fire" and still do. It's Ok, you see, because this is all about you and your personal obedience to what the Father God is saying to you, Spirit-to-spirit. Far too often, we have settled for Religion when it's intimate RELATIONSHIP that God desires from us. How can we get any more intimate than to allow the Creator of all things to live His life THROUGH us in an effort to lead people from darkness into his glorious light?

<http://www.divineconnexionsofchrist.com>

“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

Reverend Brian Richards.a.i.p.c.[M.A.C.A.]

“Divine Connexions of Christ”

<http://revbrianrichards.com>

“BORN TO LOVE”

(Re-written by Reverend Brian Richards)

Nothing in this universe happens by accident. For everything there is a reason and a purpose. There is a reason for the sun, the moon, and the stars.

There is a reason for summer and winter, spring and fall. There is a reason for rivers and oceans, trees and grass, rain and sunshine. For all things there is a reason

and a purpose. There is also a reason and a purpose for you. God measures life not in terms of years or time but in terms of purpose. Purpose is the original intent or reason for a thing to exist. We are all created with a destiny and purpose so the question needs to be asked,

"Why were you born? For what purpose did God place you on this planet?" In both the Old and New Testaments people are commanded to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind" (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37). Jesus said in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you also love one another." Jesus also said to "love

your enemies" (Matt. 6:44) and we are told to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). Husbands are to love their wives (Eph. 5:25) and wives their husbands (Titus 2:4). The list is endless for love is the theme of the entire Bible. In

fact, God "is" love (1 John 4:8). So why were you born? The answer is obvious. Clearly, you were born to love.

Paul wrote in Eph. 5:12, "Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." As born-again believers we are to be imitators of God as dear children imitate

their parents. Jesus came to lay down His life for us and we ought to do the same for others. The Message Bible says, "Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of Himself to us. Love like that." We are commanded to love one another to the same as Jesus loved us. It is so important that you let God love you because your giving of love is limited to your receiving of love. When you let God love you, when you receive His love, you will learn to love yourself because you'll see who you are through His eyes. As a result of doing this you'll also be able to see others

through the eyes of God and what follows will be a continual outpouring of love into their lives. By doing this you become a witness to the entire world. Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). The sinners of the world are not drawn into the Christian faith by us loving them but rather when they observe the demonstrated love that we have for one another. Whether we realize it or not people are watching how we live. Our actions speak louder than our words and this is why there must be zero tolerance for strife between fellow believers. Strife is the manifested presence of the devil whereas love, joy, and peace are the manifested

presence of God. Heb. 13:1 says "Let brotherly love continue." The Message Bible tells us, "Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love." Our God is a covenant God and we need to begin to love one another with a covenant love that comes as a result of knowing Him. Jesus said in John 15:9, 10 (MSG), "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make your-selves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Fathers' commands and made myself at home in his love." Jesus told us to abide in His love and this is what it means to live and make yourself at home in His

love. You live inside yourself and not some geographical location. Living in a certain city won't make you happy even though many people think it will. You live from the inside out and if your heart is right you can be happy anywhere. If your heart is not right you can live in a mansion and have all the money you need and still not be happy. The key to everlasting joy is to make yourself at home in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). Paul wrote in Rom. 13:8 "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has

fulfilled the law." Love is a debt you owe to everybody even if you feel like they don't

deserve it. It should be on the forefront of our minds that God loved each of us when we were yet sinners and also didn't deserve it. Love is not a feeling but rather is a spiritual force radiating out of your innermost being. God is love and His love is revealed and manifested by you being nice to someone. This love can produce good feelings but you can love without feelings or even with bad

feelings. Love is a decision and when the right decision is made you can love somebody even when you want to tell them off or punch their lights out. The nature of

the flesh is to respond to hurt feelings. If someone slaps you, you want to slap them back harder. The key is to be led by the Spirit and not by fickle feelings that are forever changing from one moment to the next. Gal. 5:15, 16 tell us, "But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Love does no harm to a neighbour (Rom. 13:10) and the Message Bible records these instructions from Romans 12, "Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love

deeply; practice playing second fiddle" (vs. 9, 10). "Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath"(vs. 14). "Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody" (vs. 17, 18). "Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing well" (vs. 21).

Love thinks no evil (1 Cor. 13:50) and takes no thought about how to hurt somebody. Neither should one rejoice if and when your enemy falls and gets hurt. God loves through you and you should help that fallen person get back on his feet and point him in the right direction. In the Spirit we are to

"be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10) but in our

relationships with other people we are to be harmless as a dove. Titus 3:1b,

2 tells us "to be ready for every good work, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men." Love cares when something good happens to somebody else. Love is not jealous or envious but instead rejoices when somebody else gets blessed. John, the disciple of love who laid his head on the

bosom of Jesus, gave what is probably the most prominent instruction about love when he wrote in 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." The Message Bible says, "Let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is

the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality." John knew that God will move when love is demonstrated. The entire Bible is a book of love and throughout its' pages are recorded several principles of covenant love that should govern the thoughts, words, and actions of every born-again child of God. John 15:12, 13 tell us, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down ones' life for his friends." One of the first things we learn about the love of God is that it always gives. John 3:16, probably the most famous verse in all of scripture, begin by saying, "For God so loved the world that He gave..." Just as

faith without works is dead (James 2:26), so also love

without works is dead. Love is an action and giving

is the greatest expression of love. If we love, we

give. We are the love child of a love God and love always gives. Paul wrote in Gal. 2:20b, "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Don't just give of your resources, give of yourself. Instead of paying to have your church painted, get up off that comfortable chair and go down to the church and help do the work. Don't love from a distance but personally get involved. 1 Tim. 6:18 says,

"Let them do good that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share."

Giving should be the lifestyle of every born-again believer and this includes a whole lot more than money. Finances are only a small part of giving and before money can be given we need to first be willing to cheerfully give of ourselves. We need to get involved in the lives of other people and when we do we'll quickly realize that there is always something we can give that will promote the lives of those we come in contact with. We can give people our love, time, loyalty, fellowship, counsel, prayers, our words and any natural resource we have at our disposal. Love gives whatever is

needed and we also need to be consistent in our giving. Daily look for ways to give and enrich those around you. Buy a co-worker a cup of coffee or bake a dozen cookies and give them to a neighbour. Give somebody you know a phone call and tell them how blessed you are to have them as a friend. Offer to baby-sit at no charge for a single mother with four children who never gets a chance to be by herself and do the things she truly enjoys. Take an elderly person to the shopping mall with you or a fatherless child to a ballgame. And, if nothing else, you can always give somebody a smile and a friendly "hello." Let people see the joy that is within you. And who

knows? These acts of kindness may birth in them the desire to know the same God you know. What more can a person offer another than the opportunity to receive eternal life? John 4:23 says, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." Everybody likes praise. God likes praise. People like praise. Even cats and dogs like praise. Praise is a sign of acceptance and is this not the primary need of all people? Throughout history people have gone to great lengths to accomplish great deeds all for the purpose of being noticed and accepted by others. People have

a craving to be received willingly and favourably. They want to be approved of and believed in. We need to learn to accept people not based on our preference or their performance but because God has accepted them. Paul says in Rom. 15:7, "Therefore receive one another just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God." The Message Bible states "So reach out and welcome one another to Gods' glory. Jesus did it, now you do it!" Just as we praise and worship God for His worthiness, so must we compliment and lift up other people for theirs. Words are the most important thing in the universe. They can build up or tear down and they reveal what is in a persons'

heart. When you submit your life to God submit your words to Him as well. "Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift" (Eph. 4:29 MSG). The NKJV Bible instructs us to "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Paul is telling us to take our words, wrap them with truth, love, and sincerity, and as a gift present them to whoever is close by. The NIV states "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for

building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Words that do not benefit another person must be left unspoken. Compliments spoken from the heart make people feel good about them and birth in them the desire to respond back in a favourable manner to the person

giving the compliment. This leads to unity among the brethren and this should be the ultimate goal of every believer. A compliment spoken from the heart can "break the ice" between strangers and will open the door that leads to a life of love, fellowship, and faithful service to our Heavenly Father. If you will take the time

and make the effort you will always find something good in the lives of people to

compliment them about. And, by all means, be sincere in your praise giving. Nobody likes false praise. Covenant love means you will be real and honest in your relationships. Let your compliments come from a conviction in your heart that you really believe what you're saying. If you will remain sincere, in turn, you also will be blessed as you heap praises upon those around you. Prov. 15:23 says, "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth,

and a word spoken in due season, how good it is."Our God is a giving God and there is no better indicator of His presence in our

hearts than in the attitude we develop about giving. How you give determines and reveals what's inside of you. Jesus said in Matt. 10:8b, "Freely you have received, and freely give." You received because God freely gave. It pleased the Father to have Jesus pay the price for our sins (Is. 53:10) and it pleased Jesus to do so

(Heb. 12:2). You can't doubt God's love for us because He gave us the most precious thing He had - His Son! Jesus submitted His will to that of the Heavenly Father and went to the cross for us proving that suffering that doesn't benefit others is vain. Jesus shed His blood and freely gave up His

life for us and because He lives in our hearts we can freely give to others. Godly love gives with no

strings attached and with no thought of being repaid. If you're selfish and stingy or if you expect something in return from your giving then you're either not born-again or you're not letting the love of

God lead you and guide you. If people owe you something because you gave to them then God is not your source - people are - and this is unbelief. If you want something in return then you're not giving. Love is not a loan; it's a gift that must be given quickly, willingly, and gladly. One must forever be

on guard because the devil is a thief who will continually attempt to steal from you

the proper motive you should have for your giving. Luke 4:5-7 reveals to us the selfishness of devilish giving, "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if you will worship

before me, all will be yours.'" Devilish giving is when you give expecting something in return from the person you gave it to. It's when you say, "I'll scratch your back if

you'll scratch mine" (see Luke 6:30-36). The devil was bribing Jesus and by manipulation was trying to get something back from Him. Those who give this way have minds that have been blinded by the god of this age and will live a life of deception and destruction. 2 Cor. 4:4 (MSG) gives a description of those who submit to devilish giving,

"All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God

we'll ever get." The picture Jesus painted was of a loving and freely giving Father and when His example is followed we'll overcome every attempt of the devil

to get us to do otherwise. 1 John 3:14 says, "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He

who does not love his brother abides in death." When you lay down your life for the brother's sacrifices are made. You must give up something in order to walk in love.

We live in a selfish world and the needs of other people aren't even noticed anymore. People are too busy thinking only of them and spend too much time on their jobs, hobbies, and the pursuit of worldly

pleasures. The devil is a master of preoccupation and if you'll let him he'll consume all your time thus preventing you from having the time and resources to bless others. Selfishness is a work of the flesh and Paul writes in Gal. 5:19-21 (MSG), "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking

Accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket

gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat

Competition; all-consuming-yet-neversatisfied

Wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to

**Love or be loved; divided homes and
divided lives;**

**Small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the
vicious**

**Habit of depersonalizing everyone into a
rival;**

**Uncontrolled and uncontrollable
addictions; ugly**

Parodies of community. I could go on."

**Love, on the other hand, freely gives and
this is**

**what separates devilish giving from Godly
giving.**

The word "give" is in the Bible some 2000 times and

64

64

giving is the greatest expression of love there is.

Giving is not what you do, it's what you are! God is

love, and love gives. Paul wrote, "I have been

crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but

Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20a). Jesus freely gave

**Himself to you and now you must give
yourself to**

**somebody else. Don't do this mournfully
and act like**

**it's a burden to you. Giving brings joy so
put a smile**

**on your face and help somebody cheerfully
and**

**willingly. Jesus said in John 13:17, "If you
know these things, happy are you if you do
them." The joy of the Lord is your strength
(Neh. 8:10) and sadness makes you weak. If
all you do is think of yourself you'll be sad
and weak all the time and it's a bad witness
to the world for a believer to be depressed.**

Remember, the world is watching you. If you help others you'll be stronger, happier, and more blessed than if you did something for yourself. We all have limits on our time, money, and resources and what you spend on yourself you can't spend on somebody else. It's a choice you'll have to make. If you live only for yourself you'll lose your life and it will slip away like sand flowing through your fingers. Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. He let Himself be sacrificed and we have to have the same mindset. And when we, like Jesus, put others first we also will have joy unspeakable. The application of this we walk in the light of God's word. Let the word of God be a lamp unto

thy feet and a lamp unto thy path. This from God whom is the God of Love not wrath! The method of teaching adopted by Jesus was that of painting a parabolic picture for the people allowing it to tell its' own story. He was never without a parable when He spoke and like a skilled potter would mould and shape His messages to fit the experience and maturity of His listeners. These parables bore the stamp of originality and were given to influence the thoughts, words, actions, and purposes of all who listened, Later, when He was alone with His disciples, He would go over everything and give them a full explanation of the truth He was attempting to convey. Since many in His audience were farmers

Jesus would often speak in their language for many could grasp the concept of seedtime and harvest. One such story is "The Parable of the Growing Seed" and is found in Mark 4:26-29. Of the four gospels this story is given by Mark alone and is one of the three parables which reveal the mysteries of the kingdom of God in terms of a sower's work. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." Much can be learned by a careful study of this parable and one of the foremost truths revealed is that our God is a God of order. One only has to look at a farmers' field to catch a glimpse of how God does things. First comes the blade, then the head, and after that the full grain in the head. God is sequence-minded and He never puts the cart before the horse. In the book of Genesis we read that the heavens and the earth were created in an orderly fashion. God had a plan for the first day of creation, then the second day, the third, and so forth.

Consider everything the high priests in the Old Testament had to do before they entered the Holy of Holies. They couldn't just waltz into the presence of God unannounced. No, cleansings had to be performed and offerings had to be made (see Lev. 16). With much fear and trembling this was done in an orderly fashion and in a God ordained sequence. If the proper order was not followed to the letter it would mean the end of their life. A rope was tied to the ankle of the High Priest so he could be pulled out from behind the veil in case he didn't follow the prescribed sequence and dropped over dead. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33) and to Him sequence is a serious matter

and so should it be for us. Paul writes, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). People, who wake up, get dressed, and go to work do so in an orderly manner. But the person who wakes up, goes to work, and then gets dressed is on their way to

having a very bad day. Without a doubt, a proper sequence is most important in everything we do. For example, sex before marriage is an action taken out of a proper, God-ordained sequence and many lives have been destroyed as a result thereof. To get your needs met there is a sequence to be followed. Matt. 6:33 tells us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,

and all these things will be added to you."

There is a sequence to be followed when it comes to our relationship with God and our war against the devil. James 4:7 says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." It is foolish to try to resist the devil without first submitting yourself to God. The seven sons of Sceva tried to do this and Acts 19:15, 16 tells us what happened to them, "And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

James goes on to say in vs. 8, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Gods' foremost command is for each of us to love and serve one another. You were born to love and called to serve and in our relationships with other people there is a proper order to do things. Paul also used the language of a farmer when he wrote in 1 Cor. 3:6, "I planted, Apollo's watered, but God gave the increase." The Message Bible says, "We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollo's watered the plants, but God made you grow." Again, a prescribed sequence was followed thus allowing God to give life to

the seed that was sown. In Lev. 19 God gave Moses the laws of social order and said in vs. 18, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord." Jesus quoted this command to love your neighbour as you love yourself in Mark 12:31 as did Paul in Rom. 13:9. The proper sequence here is that you must first love yourself before you can love your neighbour. You must become your own best friend and rejoice in the person God made you to be. You are a one of a kind original and there is nobody on this planet quite like you. Because of the cross you have been made the righteousness of God in Christ (2

Cor.5:21) and Paul says in Rom. 8:16,17a, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." The Message Bible says, "This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave- tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?' Gods' Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us - an unbelievable inheritance." Jesus said a great deal about love but none was more important as what He said in John 13:34,"A new commandment I give you that you love

One another; as I have loved you, whom you also love one another." Before you can love yourself or your neighbour you must have a divine revelation that God loves you. Then and only then can the love command be fulfilled in your life. Jesus prayed in John 17:23b, "that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me." It takes faith to believe that the Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus. Your mind can not comprehend this much love. Your mind will tell you this is not so because Jesus never sinned, ever rebelled, were never disobedient, and never displeased the Father. When Jesus was baptized "suddenly a voice came from heaven,

saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Matt. 3:17) Your mind will try to convince you that there is no way the Father can love you as much as He loves Jesus. But He does. In fact, He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die for you (John 3:16). Your mind is limited in its' capacity to believe such profound truths such as this so don't try to reason it all out. Just believe it by faith. Faith is a choice and does not require understanding. You can believe anything the Bible tells you if you would only choose to do so. It's not enough to just believe in God and that He exists. You have to believe that He loves you. James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons

believe - and tremble." The Message Bible puts it this way, "Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads!" Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17) so you need to hear yourself say every day, "God loves me!!" Say it again, "God loves me!!" Once more, "God loves me!!" You need to meditate on this day and night. You need to confess it, sing about it, read about it, and hear good preaching about it. There is no life as exciting as the victorious life that comes

from knowing God loves you. His great love has delivered you from the guilt of sin and the shame of your failures and mistakes. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). God remembers your sin no more (Jer. 31:34) and if you confess your sins He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). If you're forgiven, you're forgiven. If you're cleansed, you're cleansed. There is no condemnation in Christ (Rom.8:1) and we have no fear of judgment and punishment. Indeed, He is the glory and the lifter of your head (Ps. 3:3). John writes, "Whoever confesses that

Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 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" (1 John 4:15, 16)

There is a difference between knowing God loves you and believing that He

does. Divine revelation is needed for you to be fully developed in knowing the love God has for you. John called himself "that disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:7) and this should be your confession as well. Who are you? You're the one God loves. God is love and He loves you. You can't be any more loved than when you are loved by Love. God said in Jer. 31:3, "Yes, I have

loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you." God is drawing you into a love relationship with Him. He enjoys loving you and he delights in blessing you and showing you mercy. He is thinking about you today and He's got a plan for your life (see Jer. 29:11). He'll lead you and guide you in the way you should go and He'll never leave you or forsake you. He cares so much about you that He keeps count of the number of hairs on your head. His eyes roam to and fro across the earth looking for someone to show Him strong on their behalf. Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all

things that I heard from My Father, I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you..." (John 15:15,16a). Your claim to fame is that you are loved by God and it is an insult to Him when you don't know and believe that. One day Jesus and His disciples were in a boat crossing over to the other side of the sea. "And a great wind-storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'" (Mark 4:37, 38). These disciples questioned whether or not Jesus loved them and fear gripped their heart. After rebuking the storm and a great calm fell upon the water

Jesus turned to His disciples and "said to them, 'why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly..." (vs. 40,41a) One way to know if you truly believe God loves you is whether or not there is fear in your life. If you fear you won't be able to pay

Your bills this month then you is not fully convinced in your heart that God loves you. If cancer runs in your family and you fear that one day you'll catch this dreaded disease not totally persuaded that God loves you as much as He loves Jesus. But if you're walking in love you'll have no fear. 1 John 4:18 says, "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."

Faith works by knowing how much God loves you. Faith works through love (Gal. 5:6) and this is the key to your victory in life and for overcoming the trials that come your way. Heb. 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." The Message

Bible says, "It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that He exists and that He cares enough to respond to those who seek

Him." Faith is a choice. You chose to believe in the goodness of God, that He is, and that He will reward you if you seek Him diligently. David wrote in Ps. 27:13, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Faith is activated and works by love and it's this perfect love that will cast fear out of your life. The word "cast" means 'to throw out not caring where it lands.' Without fear in your life you won't be afraid of the devil,

people, death, car crashes, cancer, or of losing your job. Paul wrote in 2 Tim. 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound

mind." When you're fearless you're a problem to the devil because

he can't scare you. Rom. 8:37 says you "are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Gods' love gives you the victory every time. Paul writes, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14) The closer you walk with God the more He'll manifest His love in your life. Just walk outside and look around and you'll see the goodness of God fully displayed. All that you see He made for you. He made the sun and the moon and all the planets so that the earth could be here and He made the earth so that you could be here. He made it all for you. That

magnificent mountain range is for you as is that beautiful rainbow and the green grass that grows near your home. The reason the sun shines by day and the moon by night is for you. The reason the ocean rolls onto the sand is for you. The stars twinkle at night and the wind blows and the trees sprout their leaves all for you. The flowers bloom across the fields and the birds sing their beautiful harmonies for you. All these things say with a loud voice, "God loves you!!" Every meal you eat God is saying "I love you!" Every breath you take and every time your heart beats God is saying "I love you!" Rom. 8:31, 32 says, "What

then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" The birth of Jesus said to the world, "God loves you!!" and if He gave you Jesus He'll heal your body and give you a sound mind. He'll give you a nice house to live in and a car, a job, and a family. He'll help you comb your hair in the morning and He'll help you drive to work each day. He is the living God "who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17b). All things are yours because of the great love He has for you. It is because of His unfailing and never-ending love that you have been crowned with glory and

honour (Ps. 8:5b). Never doubt the love of God. When you do, you doubt God for He is love. Every day you're alive He demonstrates His love for you beyond question. John writes, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might

live through Him" (1 John 4:19). He could give no greater gift. He loved us while we were His enemies and not for what we were doing for Him. He does not have to do one more thing to prove that He loves you. He's already done it. Paul asks, "Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or

famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35). He answers his own question in vs. 38,39, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The Message Bible says, "I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely nothing can get between us and Gods' love because of the way

Jesus our Master has embraced us." As Jesus hung and bled on the cross the Father was showing you how much He loves you. The cross is a picture of love, it's what love looks like.

Jesus paid the highest price that could ever be paid. And He did it all for you. 1 John 3:1a says, "Behold what manner of love

the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" The word "behold" means 'look.' Look how much the Father loves you! You are an amazing, one of a kind, child of the living God! He bought you with a price and

you are most valuable to Him. You are the apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8) and you can

have boldness on the Day of Judgment because the one sitting on the throne loves you. You are loved by Love and God is not quiet about how much He loves you. He wants the whole world to know it. Jesus said in John 17:22, 23, "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,

that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." In the book of Revelation Jesus told John to write these profound words to the

church in Philadelphia, "Indeed, I will make these of the synagogue of Satan, who

say they are Jews and are not, but lie - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you' (Rev. 3:9). Imagine that. The enemy will be brought to your feet and

Shown that God loves you. The Message Bible states it like this, "And watches as I take those who call themselves true believers but are nothing of the kind, pretenders whose true membership is in the club of Satan - watch as I strip off their pretensions and they're forced to acknowledge it's you I've loved."

God wants the whole world to know that he is a God of love and that He loves you. Go public and tell people all that God has done

for you. Love your neighbour and tell them if you draw near to God, he'll draw near to you. If you seek Him with your whole heart He'll be found by you. If you'll ask, you'll receive. If you knock, it will be opened unto you. He is a good God and when you reach out to Him, He will respond back to you. If you believe in the love and mercy of God you can enjoy your life even knowing you've sinned and come short of the glory of God. Mercy means you don't get the Punishment you deserve but rather get the blessings you don't deserve. All this and more because God loves you so much that He gave you Jesus. You are loved by Love and Gods' grace will pardon and cleanse

you and make you whole. 1 John 4:10,11 tells us, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for

Our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." Herein is the threefold sequence of fulfilling Gods' command to walk in love. God loves you, you love yourself and then you love your neighbour. Loving other people is the stamp of approval that you have been born again and believe that you are loved by Love. John writes, "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother

Abides in death" (1 John 4:14). John, the apostle of love, the one who openly confessed that he was loved by Jesus, tells us in 1 John 3:11, "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." He went on to say in vs. 16-24 (MSG), "This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed His life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for

ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something a out it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to Gods' love? It disappears. And you make it disappear. My

dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in Gods' reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self criticism,

even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God!

We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what He said,

doing what pleases Him. Again, this is Gods' command: to believe in His

personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each

other, in line with the original command. As we keep His commands, we live deeply and surely in Him, and He lives in us. And this is how we

experience His deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit He gave us." Without question, God loves you. You are loved by Love and by faith you believe that and love Him back. Now, when the shouting subsides, go out and be a blessing to someone else. It's what He paid the ultimate price for you to do. (Psalm 119:105) I personally thank you for your purchase of this e-book and donation to the

**“Word of Faith ministries international”
and I leave you with this slogan that I
always use as my signature**

“Jesus and The Word are One”

now operations in Charity registration

ABN:39326050887

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com>

Introducing Reverend Dr. Brian Richards:

Raising Money For Evangelism Through The Sale Of Books

For the last few years, missionaries have found it necessary in selling various types of books to enable them to raise the money needed to minister the word of God to those who are yet to be reached. These books are mostly in the form of e-books, autobiographies and hard copies. They teach about religious history and quite a number of other things which have taken place around the world in the past 25 years. These books also carry teachings about evangelizing the word of God in some Asia Minor countries within the Asian continent.

They have been written by a Reverend who is a knowledgeable writer and laden with information for those who really wish to learn more about God's goodness. Buying them is one way of showing appreciation to the servants of God who have worked tirelessly to reach people in the most remote parts of Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Himalayas, Pakistan, Philippines, China, Salonika and India among other countries that require much ministry work this small but powerful book is devoted to the many colleges that I have ready to follow, and alternately lead by examples set down here.

The books are lowly priced and most can afford to purchase them. Once payment has been received, the e-book is available immediately for download. These books on Christian literature are well written and are available to be ordered online at any time.

Other than being able to download the electronic versions online, hard copy versions can be obtained from the associated publishing house. These hardcover's are of the highest quality and can provoke inner thought in someone who has a deep desire to learn more about Christianity and the impact which it has had on people's lives.

The documents sold by the missionary cover many areas of religious studies and can impart knowledge to anyone who is interested to learn. They appeal to people of different age groups. There is also a long list of high impact titles which a person can select from. Some of which are general in nature while others are very specific.

Missionary work is at times complex and there are many challenges which the missionaries cover. One of the greatest challenges they face most of the time is financial shortage. If they don't have enough money to finance their activities, they will find it quite hard meeting the objectives which they have. However, through selling books and Christian literature, they can help raise money to keep them evangelizing to places which have not been reached before.

The missionaries require moving from one location

to another, pay for rental and medical expenses among others. Most of these missionaries are not supported by their local churches. Through donations and together with book sales is what they solely rely on to keep them moving forward with evangelical work. Appeals for support in this cause are needed due to the fact that God's work is being carried out. People who buy these books should understand that they are supporting a worthy cause when they purchase them. There are many offers available on purchasing the e-book or hardcover. Due to the ease of the purchasing process, there is no excuse to not support this worthy cause.

<http://revbrian-msociety.com>

About the Author

REVEREND BRIAN RICHARDS.

"DIVINE CONNEXIONS OF CHRIST" affiliated

WORD OF FAITH MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

P.O. BOX 1116 TAREE.

NEW SOUTH WALES 2430 phone 02 65512418.

bri90052@bigpond.net.au

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: A.B.N.39 326 050 887

Dear Reader,

My name is Rev Brian Richards and my current work and primary purpose is to raise funds for the mission field of evangelism of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippines, China, and all Asia minor it has been a very hard and tiresome job considering I do not have any main line denomination financial backing, as an independent registration my ministry is self supported through my own contributions and them of my partners and affiliates whom sell my books and products that are available on

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com/wpx2>

all my products are sold on a commissions of 70%

commissions on all sales however only those people selected as in need can be affiliates due to the nature of the funds only being for the needy people;

My plan and purpose of this brief note is to let you know that revbrian-bookstore, and Divine Connexions of Christ, & Word of Faith Ministries International are all combined into one ministry with one Australian Charity Business number: 39 326 050 887

Hoping you understand, sincerely yours in Christ
Reverend Dr. Brian Richards.a.i.p.c.[M.A.C.A.]

“Who is a disciplined disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ” all references are King James Version of the Holy Bible translated out of the original tongues and with previous translations diligently compared and revised.

This book is written from accumulation of notes how God has spoken to me over the last 20 years of study. The inspiration from the Spirit of God compelled me to write and to continue to write, this book whilst I was convalescing from a car accident nursing a fracture in my back, through the whiplash on impact.

I had been very concerned about things that we were hearing in churches about the so-called faith movement. Even though there was nothing wrong with the word that is being preached because it is all scripture. There is something wrong with the delivery and more importance should be put on the fruit, rather than the power of the gifts. Yes many writers have said this before, and it needs to be said again, that sign & wonders should be following those that believe.

Not the other way around, I see people saying there is a anointing over here, that makes people roll around the floor laughing, or miracles happening here and there. I am not against the miracles or the joy of the Lord However I think we all can get our eyes of the real fruit of the Spirit mentioned in

Galatians 5:22- this is the fruit we should be looking for.

If we hear people claiming to have outstanding miracles in their life, but they are still sinning like an unsaved person there is something wrong. I was a drunk 25 years ago and got filled with the new wine of the Holy Ghost this was a miracle because I never drank like an alcoholic again. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in my life still from the touch of the master's hand; 25 years later one touch from God changed my life forever.

I have observed that the Faith movement as we know it, has been confused with other things, and Satan has taken full advantage of this time of whilst young Christians have been battered, and alluded into something that is not of God. The charismatic people have been drawing people, and counterfeiting the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some of these church leaders have waited so long for the move of God that they have embraced the charismatic ways that is going on now, not realising that that they too have been alluded away from the real signs & wonders of God. The God that I know

always, always, always shows his fruit in a person's life if a real miracle has taken place. I have talked to Christians that say they are sorry they ever got involved with the Church for one reason or another; well that is not the fruit of the Spirit. There should be always a love for God that no one can take away (Romans 8:35) tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or peril, or sword? In all these things we are more than conquerors, no power present, or to come will be able to take the true believer from the love of God, which is Christ Jesus our Lord; this is the fruit we should be looking for.

The miracle power of God we received a long time ago folks so walk yea in him. In Him we live, in Him we move, in Him we have our being. What Greater miracle can there be that can not be counterfeited. I can see that there has been taught old things are past away and all things have become new! And now we are to call those things that be not as though they really are. O course that is what the word of God say's after all. Yes but there is a right way and a wrong way of application of this faith,

some people I know expect a magic formula to set them free from their sticky past with-out doing any work themselves. I praise God for that if it happened that way for you, but I have talked to thousands of people about this in deliverance. If some one wanted to start a church and say healing of the memories seminar to night he would fill any building. People want the magic without any effort on their part; deliverance doesn't come from the touch of the pastor's hand or the stroke of a pen. It come from obedience to scripture and repentance is always required. There has to be a turning away from old ways, old thoughts, deeds, and actions, and then true deliverance comes.

Yes God will hasten his word to perform a miracle of deliverance, if we can hasten our repentance from dead works. However most of the people I have spoken too it took a working out of something that God had worked into our lives. (Philippians 2:12-13) God works in you whilst YOU work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Satan has tricked people all over the world in an

expression that people say here in Australia forget it mate' she'll be right.

Satan wants you to try to forget things by sweeping them under the carpet and years later when they show there ugly head we say well wonder where that came from. It was UN-confessed, UN-repented sin that is where it came from, and was allowed to grow; now it has become a strong hold that the devil is using to keep a person in bondage, and now needs deliverance.

God spoke to me and gave me Teaching and summons, that I said why Lord, why am I having all these wonderful teachings and summons. The Lord said this is what I want you to put into a book, the book "Who is a disciplined disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ" is first written for my benefit. As I was much of the time depressed over my afflictions, I have still not heard, from the driver whom slammed into the back of me at an estimated speed 130klms per hour.

I am alive to day by the grace of God, and whilst being in a bad state of depression God started to speak to me in a way that I had not

known before. He said all what you have ever learned about over coming, being victorious in this life you have to put into practice now. So whilst I had time on my hands I enrolled into University to study the Bachelors of Social Sciences, but this did not satisfy the hunger I had in my soul, and my heart to improve my self and to get well. So by seeking God further than I had ever gone before through desperation the Lord started to wake me up at night and give me teaching and summons.

I got that way that I would not go to bed knowing that if I did I would have to get up again to write down what the Lord was talking to me about.

I spent many hours at night just writing down what the Lord gave me to write, sometimes until 5 & 6 o'clock in the morning I would go to bed for a couple hours before going about my day.

With Doctors appointments and Physiotherapy, and hydrotherapy this kept me very busy and exhausted most of the time for the first two years. The title of this book and the purpose of writing it is that I could see the superficial so called Christian by name only.

However not really disciplined in the word of God at all.

I thought and indeed still do believe that a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, is one whom is disciplined and obedient to His word. My heart cry is that by writing this book that it will bring, the right correction, and direction to the reader who wants to live an overcoming, victorious Christian life for God. Hence comes the title

“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”

This bookanswers questions that have plagued people down through the ages. It will show the way God has covenanted with the human race to get them back to Himself. It will show the reason God has taken various actions to bring people back to Himself.

Here is the problem God is addressing. God created the human race to bring glory and honour to Him. The human race was to have fellowship with God, to have the same kind of a

relationship that is expressed in a marriage. God would be the groom and the people of God would be His bride. The two would live in perfect harmony with one another. There would be a mutual love for one another. God would be the protector and provider and the people of God would be greatly blessed through this arrangement.

The problem came when the human race decided to follow the advice of God's archenemy, Satan, rather than God. Satan convinced Eve that God was lying to her about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told her, "You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be open, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" - Genesis 3:4, 5. She ate the forbidden fruit. When she did not die, she convinced her husband, Adam, to eat it. This act of disobedience turned the human race over to Satan. From that time forward the human race became God's enemy.

Satan "rewired" the human race with a propensity placed in them that wars against God. This "body of sin and death" cannot be tamed. It must be removed. See Romans 6-8.

So the "wife" of God committed spiritual adultery with God's archenemy. She decided she did not want to have any more to do with God. She would be her own god. She would be god. This is like having a companion you dearly love, without whom you felt your life would not be complete, deciding to commit adultery with a person who would cause him or her endless heartaches. Your loved one thought he or she was getting a good deal. You knew better.

From this time you decide to get him or her back at any cost to yourself. If you were God, what would you do to win back the love you had received from your adulterous "wife?" Would you stand by and let this one be destroyed without attempting to rescue him or her from utter ruin? Love does not work that way. Love

attempts to find a way to bring your loved one back. God has done this through covenants.

Here are the covenants God has made with mankind (us) to bring us back into His loving embrace:

1. The covenants God made with Adam and Eve extend from Creation to Noah. They were to be fruitful and populate the earth. They were to have rule over all the earth above all other living things. They were to eat fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. They were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They were to have a close personal relationship with God. This was the original covenant God made with the human race. Everything was heavenly until Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This brought curses on them and the earth. Decay set in and all of creation has been suffering every since. This is where suffering originated.

2. The covenant God made with Noah. By the time we reach Noah's generation, the human race had become a total disgrace. People had become violent to one another and "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually." There was total confusion. God had to do something to save the human race from total destruction. There were only eight people who loved God in this generation. God used a worldwide flood to destroy the earth. All human and animal life was destroyed. Noah, his family and representatives of all animal life were saved in a large ark (boat). As a result of this, capital punishment was introduced and the eating of the flesh of "clean" animals was allowed. The ages of human life begin to be shortened. God promised He would never destroy the earth with a flood again.

3. The covenant God made with Abraham. This was made between God and Abraham. It was to extend through his family to bring "a blessing to all the nations of the earth." This is God's first

step in bringing Jesus into the world. The promise was made in Genesis 3:15 and set in operation through Abraham's descendants. This was the start of God's bringing the nation of Israel into being. It was through the Jews that Jesus came into this world to be our Saviour and Lord.

4. The covenant God made with Moses. This is the period of time when God set up the Law to give the human race His will for them. This was all temporary until He could make it work through a personal experience with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The Law was to act as "a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ."

5. The covenant God has made with the whole human race is now in effect. This covenant is called the New Covenant. This is all explained in Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament Scriptures of the Christian faith. This covenant fulfils all the promises found in the Old Testament concerning the Lord Jesus

Christ. This is God's last covenant. Jesus is God's "love gift" to the whole human race to woo us - His adulterous wife - back to Himself. If we do not accept this one, there is no more hope for us. It will be completed when Jesus comes back to set up a new heaven and new earth for those who have accepted His "peace offering." John 3:5-21 applies here. The next event will be an extension of this covenant. Those who have accepted the terms of the New Covenant will be a part of Jesus' eternal kingdom. They will reign with Him forever. They will be His bride that will be without spot or wrinkle. They will be holy and perfect in their love for God and others. We call these people born-again, Spirit-filled Christians.

We may wonder why God allowed some things to happen that are against His nature. We may refer to these things as Bible contradictions. Before we get too heated up over these "gross inconsistencies" of God, we need to understand there was a time when God "winked" at our

ignorance, but now calls all of us to repentance.

God's revelation of Himself and His will for us has been progressive. First, He dealt with the human race through their conscience. When this failed, He dealt with us through His law. After we failed to come to Him through the law, He extended His love and mercy to us through His Only Begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We now have the full revelation of God's will for us. We also have God's power and glory that can enable us to love and serve Him as we reach out to others who are in need. Thus, God's will and grace is clearly shown to us through the New Covenant of God's grace. This means there are no more excuses left for us to reject God any longer. God's invitation is extended to all of us in Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride says, Come. And let him that is thirsty come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Hence comes the title of the book you're reading now! I was going to call it *COME OUT OF THE DREAM WORLD*. However the Spirit of God intervened and **said "Walking In Darkness & Having No Light"** this what the Spirit of the Lord wants to deal with here and now! *Hence comes the title of the book you're reading now!*

So this has been the introduction of the book however you can see from the lengthy introduction the basics necessary to continue to bring more light from the coming scriptures, that we shall use from this continual revelations of coming out of darkness and being translated into His marvellous light!

"Walking In Darkness & Having No Light"

How to open our eyes to more light and stop walking in spiritual darkness! Firstly we will have to open Spiritual doors by opening our heart to more worship. Yes worship is a major

key to receiving revelation knowledge from God. So for the next few pages we will talk about how to open Spiritual doors when leading worship! Notice I said leading worship the leadership has to start with you! Are you leading yourself to worship or are you being led to worship by an inner force, or desire? This desire could be a favourite song, a tune a voice, not necessarily the Spirit of God. All words and all music have spirit attached to it! We have to make sure it is by the Holy Spirit of God.

Worship is all about the world of giving glory to God and it's done in that Spirit and if it is done in the spirit it changes the whole outlook of glorifying God. The Holy Spirit is there to lead us to worship him at His throne. The Israelites were told that the when you see the Ark of Covenant move you are to move with it, they had to pack their tents, bags, food and all their good s and follow the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night so. So it resembles the Spirit of God when we worship, as it leads us let us follow why you may say why?

Looking at the passage above you will see that the Israelites in the wilderness were never given a warning they just found things moving and God's spirit and cover moving and it's the same with the worshipping in the spirit. God spirit moves when we worship, when the Holy Spirit moves he open doors and realms for us to follow and when you are worshipping and you do not see where the Holy Spirit is going you will not enter into the Holy of Holies. **Hebrews 10:16** Romans 8:14 Romans 12:1-2

"1) Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. (2) After three days

the officers went throughout the camp, (3) giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are

to move out from your positions and follow it.
 (4) Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." **Joshua 3:1-4**

The chief aim of worship is to glorify God in his presence so we need to make sure that we are tuned in and to listen and to also to obey and follow the spirit of God when He leads us and guides us to God's throne. As I am writing I am

Listening to listening to the Spirit of God within me **(Romans 8:28)** that is what we need to develop that listening ear, that obedient heart, that ability to see and follow the Spirit.

What do you think about doors of worship? This is the heart we need to have!

God Bless You as you receive more revelation of

.....**“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”**

Romans 8: 14 them that are led of the Spirit of God are the sons of God. This whole chapter is talking about how to walk in the Spirit of the living God, verse 28... and then meaning when we do the whole chapter, then verse 28.. applies all things work together for good according to his good pleasure.

O.k. now we are getting an idea of what this book title is all about **“Walking In Darkness & Having No Light”**

Isaiah 50: 10 this is a ministry of darkness that is an absence of light and if we do not understand this concept of darkness it will wipe you out”

- We have to trust God and his word by faith and not by sight.
- . Luke 22:53 not this darkness..... but this darkness is much different Isaiah 50: 10 this can be a man still walking by faith! But seam's to be in a dark place?

Asking himself what happens now? And the answer is verse 10 “Who is among you that fearth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, which walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

(Job) said “I cannot find God” This may not fit your doctrine and is against all that we have believed in faith! So yes it may not fit your doctrine, but it will fit your experience: some times we do walk in darkness even walking by faith! It’s an awful experience when we cannot see any more where God is leading us. It sure does take faith to continue, when all seems quite inside and outside, we seemed to be walking in darkness, like a battery gone in your touch or flash light.

- . We are children of light but walking in darkness and a sense of loss. Most of us give up at this point and say “Well I guess this was not God after all, I must have made a mistake”. NO child of God does not think that way what God has begun in you He will also

finish. You are a work in progress we delay the actions of God when we go into doubt and fear and unbelief. This is the way to think, well I am happy being Holy, and being Holy is pleasing God, not always being Holy means that you going to be happy! However you will still have the joy of the Lord, because joy is a spiritual power force that comes from the spirit of God. Joy depends of the fruit of Gods Spirit does not depend on your feelings of happiness. Job relates to this *“When I am tried, I will come forth as gold, though He sleigh me, I will still trust Him.”* **I DON’T KNOW WHERE HE IS! But God knows where I am at!**

The apostle Paul said acts 26: **2 Paul said I think myself happy?**

Abraham Lincoln the USA President of old said a man is as happy as he puts his mind to be! O yes dear reader being led of the Spirit of God can some times be a “Ministry Of Darkness, is the absence of light”

The same God that gave the Ten Commandments also gives us 365 promises one for each day of the year! God give promises, not explanations. I would rather live on a promise of God, rather than an explanation! The question is will we still love God, in the darkness, rather than in the sunlight? The whole world is made in darkness, as well as sunlight, or else or there would be mostly desert, and sand, no life in the desert? So as I see it faith in God, is better than an answer!

JOB ask God 181 questions, and God answer his questions, and asked Job 184 questions with his answers. _The just shall live by faith, not by explanations! However we should never doubt in darkness, what God has told us in light! Entrance of Gods word gives light, so let the word of God be a Lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Let this be your flash light, but don't let the batteries go out, by stepping out of his word.....”” *Jesus and his word are one*”

"Walking In Darkness & Having No Light"

Become a Positive Confession Fan

Joshua and Caleb, came back to Moses from the land

Overcoming Discouragement with a good report

Other available-[Books](#)



Joshua and Caleb, came back to Moses from the land of Eshcol (Deuteronomy 1:24-28) with a good report saying yes there are giants in the land but don't worry Moses we can take them! But there were twelve that went into the land, and only two came back with a good report saying all is well we can take them. This is the size of the men they had to fight to take the land. [Which way would your report go?](#)



"Would you say this is too much for me"? or would you take on the fight!

the other report was that they had the city walls that went up so far as the heavens and they were giants so big they can swallow us up. We cannot possibly win the fight!

BUT GOD HAD ALREADY TOLD THEM HE WOULD GO BEFORE THEM!

So what are we going to believe the Joshua & Caleb's report? which was a good report or are we going to believe what God said was an evil report? This was an evil report only because God had already said I shall go before you and prepare the way but you shall have to fight them.



(Deuteronomy 1: 27) they murmured & complained about how hard it was. They thought God has hated us and delivered into the hands of the enemy the Amorites, will destroy us now! They.

The children of Israel were discouraged because of the hard road ahead and the trials of faith were very hard and too hard for some. (Numbers 21: 4-10)
They looked at the ways before them and became



discouraged.

Moses had already said to the Israelites that from Horeb to kadesh-barnea that this is a 11 days journey.

However because of the doubt, fear and unbelief that God was with them, and would deliver them from the enemy, it took them 38 years to possess the Promised Land.

How about you to-day are you going to believe God's word, or are you only going to believe what you can see! by the outward eyes.

We are told from the word of God that "You must be born again to enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:3-5) This kingdom of God is righteous, peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost. This is the way we enter into the promises of God to-day by being born again, its available for the asking! You can ask God now by saying this pray with faith!

God please forgive me of my unbelief and past sins, and except me into your Kingdom. I believe that Jesus died for me, to pay the price of my sin. Then He rose again from the dead, it's a mystery that I don't know how he did it. However I choose to believe it to-day and except Jesus into my life, and into my heart. I believe I receive right now as I pray, and I thank you for your forgiveness.

In Jesus name Amen, thank you Amen. 😊 If you have said this prayer today in faith then please tell some body so we can encourage you some more!

(pray now) the prayer and leave a message directly to

"Divine Connexions")

*O.K. nothing has changed over the past two thousand years, only the way we look at things. Do we trust in his name: **The Great I Am:** (not was, or shall be!) **He is still "The Great I Am"***

Dear Reader I am reminded of just one of the many a times I witnessed the amazing grace of God. I remember a man in the subway of the central railway station in the city of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. So if you know it you may see this in your minds, there was a voice of singing in the distance. However because of the subway the voice travelled far and wide throughout the railway station. So I purposed in my mind to go see whom this voice belonged too. As I got closer I could tell that this voice was from a mature person maybe some-one elderly. I was intrigued to know now whom this voice was! And why...what appeared to be a not real good male voice, singing amazing grace over and over again, and again. Like as if it was the only song he knew, it was not a good voice, but not a bad

voice either. There was however something compelling me to find out whom this voice was, and where it was coming from: So by now I was in a hurry to find out, where this was situated, I could hear coins being thrown down to the floor, and bouncing of the tiled walls. This singer's voice was getting louder as I was getting near to find out whom this voice was. I turned the corner towards where the voice was coming from, and what I visualised will stay in my mind for ever! There was an old man dressed in what was once upon a time, a soldier's uniform. This old worn out soldier was missing a leg and an arm, was sitting very sloppy on a concrete tiled floor of the subway. He looked at me approaching closer to see that he only had one eye that was fully functional the other was poorly and sick. This old soldier had a plastic guitar string tied to his chest: where he strummed with his one hand that he had singing his favourite song "amazing grace" I could not help myself, I was forced to ask him why did he sing this same song over and over again. He said "it's my favourite song" don't

you like it? I said "Yes but what have you got to be so thankful for! you got only one eye functional and one leg missing, you got one arm missing, you look like you are starved and begging for your next meal, and someone has pinned a strung an old broken plastic guitar looked like it came off the dump, attached around your neck and chest? And YOU are singing about this? This old soldier answered me by saying "Sir you are looking at what is missing! I am looking at what I can do with what is left? The old soldier continued to sing "Amazing Grace How sweet..."

*So you see we have to be grateful all the time, because the amazing grace of God is very real for all of us, if we are to look for it and remember! Without God grace we all would die, in our sins, the amazing grace of God of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ has saved us all that would turn to him with repentance. **ISAIAH 50: 1-10** This whole chapter is referring to some one that has doubt of the way God is leading them! Where is the bill of divorcement! Has God told you he has changed his mind about you? No*

he said set your face like flint, and don't be ashamed when things get hard to understand, why things get hard. We are like walking in darkness, but we are not to forget in darkness, what God has spoken to us in the light! In what light? In the light of his word, remember **"Jesus and the Word are one"**

*Most of our fears are fear of rejection, you are no Robinson Caruso! Most of us are like the rest of us! Yes?....well make a firm decision to come out of fear, do not be caught just waiting, passiveness, what is the worst thing that can happen anyway? Are you prepared to pay the price to go all the way through to being free from your fears? O.K. then stand on the word of God (2 Timothy 1:7) Hold fast to you confession of faith (**proverbs 29: 25**) see this scripture reminds me of fear being broken when we trust in the Lord. ***"Fear comes knocking on the door Faith answers and finds no-one there"****

Dear brothers & sisters in the Lord, we have to live by faith in the bible scriptures, if we are to overcome all the worldly ways. (***Psalms 27: 1***)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The strength of the Lord is my life.

To overcome fear we are to stop comparing ourselves to other people, and overcome a negative self image. **Isaiah 2: 11-12**

We are to stop regarding man's opinions of us! The lofty looks of man shall be humbled.

God has never programmed anyone to fail (2 Corinthians 2:14) Now thanks be to God whom always causeth us to triumph in

Christ.... *The watch dog of your heart is called rejection open your heart to truth and get rid of rejection and the fear thereof: There is no fear in the Love of God, so we meditation on the love of God casting down all vain imaginations (2 Corinthians 10: 5) and walk in love again, and get rid of rejection.*

So now we deal with biblical idolatry this is darkness again. God is committed to character not talent. Here is a test of convictions that said "There is something I will not change for anything" O yea man.....you will change your opinions, but you will die for your convictions!

O yea some “people have a love for what God gave” yet the neglect the God whom gave it?

O.K. so now we deal with biblical idolatry

Why are Catholics accused of idolatry for their use of statues and icons?

Okay, first off. What's the commandment say?
Exodus 20:2-6 from the
New American Bible:

I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them.

So that seems pretty clear, right? Just worship the Lord, your God, and nobody else. Don't create idols, like that golden calf that the Hebrews are busy making to honour Ba'al.

That's a no-no! Aaron, Moses' brother, is trying to keep order down at the base of Mount Sinai while his brother is spending forty days atop Mount Sinai with God. The Hebrews are getting impatient. So what do they do? Start worshipping another God.

God just performed countless miracles before the Hebrews, freeing them from Pharaoh -- turning the Nile to blood, parting the Red Sea, etc--and already they've become distracted. It's easy to see why this is the First Commandment, huh? You have ONE GOD. That's it! Stick with Him. Forever. It's that simple.

Catholics (and Lutherans) define the First Commandment as including the prohibition of idols. Different religions number their Commandments differently, however, which leads to a different placement of "You shall not make for yourself a grave image." Most people probably forget this, thinking the commandments are the commandments, but

not every Decalogue is created equally.
Catholics take their numbering of the
commandments from Deuteronomy 5, as
opposed to Exodus 20.

This numbering is important theologically.
Protestants throw in a man's wife among his
possessions for things that you should not
covet... I'm sure Henry VIII appreciated this. The
Catholic/Lutheran numbering, on the other
hand, regards the phrase "graven images"
differently, throwing it in with #1, "You shall
have no other gods before me."

Now, why is the veneration of images of Jesus,
the Virgin Mary, and the saints NOT idolatry?

Let me first say that if God did not intend for his
loyal disciples to make statues and holy images,
WHY did He command Moses to adorn the Ark
of the Covenant (THE most holy relic of the
Hebrew people) with statues of cherubim???
Notice that God instructs Moses in the making

of the Ark in almost the same breath as the Commandments. Clearly, God is not contradicting himself: there must be something wrong with our interpretation of what is a "graven image." Why is the Golden Calf different from the Golden Cherubim, or even the Bronze serpent that Moses raises in the desert? The answer is on some levels obvious, but let's get down to the etymology.

There are two kinds of veneration:

latreia and

douleia.

Latreia is the veneration due to God, alone.

Veneration of the saints or anything that is not

God, Himself, in the form of

latreia, is doctrinally forbidden by the Catholic

Church. The veneration of religious pictures or

Icons in the form of

douleia, however, is not only allowed but

obligatory. The difference is subtle sometimes,

and may be confusing to the casual observer.

Lastly, let's look at the writings of St. John of Damascus on this subject, because he was a great fighter of heresy in his time AND because he makes it so simple. In his work, On the Divine Image, which was written in the 8th century in response to the Iconoclastic Controversy that would eventually lead to the Great Schism of 1054, St. John argues, while depicting the invisible God is indeed wrong, the Incarnation, in which "the Word became flesh" (Jn 1:14), indicates that the invisible God became visible. Consequently, it is permissible to depict Jesus Christ. St. John writes, "When He who is bodiless and without form... existing in the form of God, empties Himself and takes the form of a servant in substance and in stature and is found in a body of flesh, then you draw His image."

Jesus desires that we know him. He wants us to understand what it meant for him to be born into the poverty of a manger, what it meant for him to hang on the wood of a cross. Are manger

scenes and crucifixes to be considered false idols? Every saint and angel in our manger scenes (e.g. the Virgin Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel) is pointing to Christ and honouring him alone.

Our God is a visible God. O Come Let Us Adore Him! This is certainly the season for it.

Come out of the deception and come into this light of his word because "Jesus and the word are one"

Your Church: House of God or Ichabod?

Most of us have surely heard the church building on the corner referred to as "the house of God." Have you ever heard the Word "Ichabod"? Other than the first name of the schoolmaster character in Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" - the word "Ichabod" was originally mentioned in Scripture. "Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" Because the ark of

God had been captured," (1Sam. 4:21). The original meaning of Ichabod is this: "the glory has departed".

Logic tells us that the word "has departed" denotes simply that there used to be glory, and now there isn't. The term originated in reference to what many refer to as "the Shekinah (SHE'KEE'NA) glory" which is the manifestation of the glory of God in the temple at Jerusalem - the place where God resided. This "Shekinah" was displayed in several ways in Scripture including the burning bush, the bright light when the angels announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds, etc. The Shekinah was only present when the Ark of the Covenant was in its proper place, in the Holy of Holies. Historically, whenever the Ark was NOT in the temple, the temple was said to be "Ichabod." The real substance and meaning of the temple was missing. It was merely an empty habitation at that point because the essence - the glory of God - was gone.

There are many references to the "glory of God" throughout Scripture. It is the direct reminder of God's power and interaction with His people. The word "glory" is one that is often misunderstood. Though most would agree that the word implies praise, honour and fame, a more complete definition includes the words splendour, magnificence and radiance. Now, apply that definition to any verse regarding "the glory of God" and it changes its meaning in a powerful way.

Today, in this Age of Grace, the glory of God is manifest through the lives of those truly serving Him. Notice: through the LIVES - NOT the buildings. Our lives are intended to form the visible manifestation of God's splendour, magnificence and radiance. Until we renew our minds to this truth, it isn't happening'. When it does, through the ministry of a relative few, we see them as being "more holy" or "more spiritual" than the rest of us, as if they set the standard to which the rest of us can aspire.

That's unfortunate for, if we are to compare ourselves with anyone, that person should be Jesus. He alone is our standard.

The Scripture refers to us, the followers of Jesus, as "living sacrifices." This is commonly referred to as an oxymoron (a la "Jumbo Shrimp", "Found Missing", "Microsoft Works") for a sacrifice is dead and, therefore, cannot possibly be living. Notice, however, that the phrase is not "tithing sacrifices", "preaching sacrifices" or any other kind of sacrifices. No, the term is LIVING sacrifices, denoting life, day to day, and moment to moment sacrificial living. In other words, doing everything as unto the Lord God (1 Cor 10:31). (read this one) get some one to read Romans 12 : 1-2

Do you get it? We, the Church - NOT the edifices, but the PEOPLE - are supposed to be the containers of the glory of God. (Romans 8: 14) Better yet, the DISPENSERS of the glory of God. Jesus called us "the light of the world" -

NOT our buildings and certainly Not our manmade denominations. Too often, even Protestants have the attitude that God is in the church house. Friends & brethren God doesn't show up anywhere, including church services, until you get there. You bring Him WITH you! (1 John 4: 4) Too often, the gatherings taking place within these structures are replete with unscriptural ritualism demonstrated nowhere in Scripture, or they've become mere social clubs that rarely reveal lives that have been radically changed.

(2 Corinthians 5: 17-21) The bodies in there, going through endless motions, and droning worship songs, too often offer lip service with hearts far from God. The glory has gone. The individuals, and the organization which they comprise, have become Ichabod. (the Glory has departed)

So, is your church an Ichabod or is it the house of God? (you make the difference)

It's NEITHER! God doesn't live in ANY building anywhere on the face of the earth. He lives within YOU. In fact YOU are the Ark of the New Covenant, carrying with you the very presence and power of God EVERYWHERE you go. Problem? The vast majority of those who call themselves "Christian" (literally meaning, "a little Christ") don't believe that. Not only that, most of us have never been taught that. Instead, we've been conditioned to believe God is "out there" somewhere.

(We been conditioned to believe in being a sinner) We hear songs like "God is watching us" by Bette Midler and "What if God were one of us?" and we base our theology on this stuff rather than the Word of God.

So, is God really within you, desiring to live THROUGH you or isn't He? Does the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives within you or is God a liar? Will His disciples REALLY do greater things than He did or was Jesus out of His mind? Does the verse "In Him we live and

move and have our being" apply to anyone you know? The truth is, God DOES live within us and He does some pretty incredible things through those who have decided to believe that every Word of Scripture is absolute truth. (Jesus and the Word are ONE)

Major problem? As I see it, there are three: (A) Preachers aren't preaching this, (B) Christians are so biblically illiterate, we have no idea what's Scripture and what's from Poor preacher up front, and (C) We are so busy doing things the prescribed way that we are oblivious to what the Lord is wanting His Church to do next.....

All this can change but it starts with a radical, life altering decision, one that every individual Believer has to make on his or her own. Don't wait for your pastor or priest to make the choice. Neither should you wait for your denomination to get an edict visitor from headquarters. YOU alone must make the choice to raise your head up from among the crowd.

When the lemmings & goats are headed west, go ahead and head east. But be warned: one man's obedience is another man's rebellion. The traditional Church is notorious for attacking anyone who follows the cloud. The things we see as commonplace were once considered radical. From church music to altar calls, numerous aspects of church have suffered from "friendly fire" and still do.

It's Ok, you see, because this is all about you and your personal obedience to what the Father God is saying to you, Spirit-to-spirit. Far too often, we have settled for Religion when it's intimate RELATIONSHIP that God desires from us. How can we get any more intimate than to allow the Creator of all things to live His life THROUGH us in an effort to lead people from darkness into his glorious light?

<http://www.divineconnexionsofchrist.com>

"Walking In Darkness & Having No Light"

Reverend Brian Richards.a.i.p.c.[M.A.C.A.]

“Divine Connexions of Christ”

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com/wpx2>

“BORN TO LOVE”

(Re-written by Reverend Brian Richards)

Nothing in this universe happens by accident. For everything there is a reason and a purpose. There is a reason for the sun, the moon, and the stars. There is a reason for summer and winter, spring and fall. There is a reason for rivers and oceans, trees and grass, rain and sunshine. For all things there is a reason and a purpose. There is also a reason and a purpose for you. God measures life not in terms of years or time but in terms of purpose. Purpose is the original intent or reason for a thing to exist. We are all created with a destiny

and purpose so the question needs to be asked, "Why were you born? For what purpose did God place you on this planet?" In both the Old and New Testaments people are commanded to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind" (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37). Jesus said in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you also love one another." Jesus also said to "love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44) and we are told to "love your neighbour as yourself" (Lev. 19:18). Husbands are to love their wives (Eph. 5:25) and wives their husbands (Titus 2:4). The list is endless for love is the theme of the entire Bible. In fact, God "is" love (1 John 4:8). So why were you born? The answer is obvious. Clearly, you were born to love.

Paul wrote in Eph. 5:12, "Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." As born-again believers we are to be imitators of God as dear children imitate their

parents. Jesus came to lay down His life for us and we ought to do the same for others. The Message Bible says, "Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of Himself to us. Love like that." We are commanded to love one another to the same measure as Jesus loved us. It is so important that you let God love you because your giving of love is limited to your receiving of love. When you let God love you, when you receive His love, you will learn to love yourself because you'll see who you are through His eyes. As a result of doing this you'll also be able to see others through the eyes of God and what follows will be a continual outpouring of love into their lives. By doing this you become a witness to the entire world. Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). The sinners of the world are not drawn into the Christian faith by us loving them but rather when they observe the demonstrated love that we have for one another.

Whether we realize it or not people are watching how we live. Our actions speak louder than our words and this is why there must be zero tolerance for strife between fellow believers. Strife is the manifested presence of the devil whereas love, joy, and peace are the manifested presence of God. Heb. 13:1 says "Let brotherly love continue." The Message Bible tells us, "Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love." Our God is a covenant God and we need to begin to love one another with a covenant love that comes as a result of knowing Him. Jesus said in John 15:9, 10 (MSG), "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make your-selves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Fathers' commands and made myself at home in his love." Jesus told us to abide in His love and this is what it means to live and make yourself at home in His love. You live inside yourself and not some geographical location. Living in a certain city won't make you happy even though many people think it

will. You live from the inside out and if your heart is right you can be happy anywhere. If your heart is not right you can live in a mansion and have all the money you need and still not be happy. The key to everlasting joy is to make yourself at home in His love. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

Paul wrote in Rom. 13:8 "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law." Love is a debt you owe to everybody even if you feel like they don't deserve it. It should be on the forefront of our minds that God loved each of us when we were yet sinners and also didn't deserve it. Love is not a feeling but rather is a spiritual force radiating out of your innermost being. God is love and His love is revealed and manifested by you being nice to someone. This love can produce good feelings but you can love without feelings or even with bad feelings. Love is a decision and when the right decision is made you can love somebody even

when you want to tell them off or punch their lights out. The nature of the flesh is to respond to hurt feelings. If someone slaps you, you want to slap them back harder. The key is to be led by the Spirit and not by fickle feelings that are forever changing from one moment to the next. Gal. 5:15, 16 tell us, "But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Love does no harm to a neighbour (Rom. 13:10) and the Message Bible records these instructions from Romans 12, "Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle" (vs. 9, 10). "Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath" (vs. 14). "Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody" (vs. 17, 18). "Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing well" (vs. 21). Love thinks no evil (1 Cor. 13:50) and takes no

thought about how to hurt somebody. Neither should one rejoice if and when your enemy falls and gets hurt. God loves through you and you should help that fallen person get back on his feet and point him in the right direction. In the Spirit we are to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10) but in our relationships with other people we are to be harmless as a dove. Titus 3:1b, 2 tells us "to be ready for every good work, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men." Love cares when something good happens to somebody else. Love is not jealous or envious but instead rejoices when somebody else gets blessed. John, the disciple of love who laid his head on the bosom of Jesus, gave what is probably the most prominent instruction about love when he wrote in 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." The Message Bible says, "Let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality." John knew that God will move when love is demonstrated.

The entire Bible is a book of love and throughout its' pages are recorded several principles of covenant love that should govern the thoughts, words, and actions of every born-again child of God. John 15:12, 13 tell us, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down ones' life for his friends." One of the first things we learn about the love of God is that it always gives. John 3:16, probably the most famous verse in all of scripture, begin by saying, "For God so loved the world that He gave..." Just as faith without works is dead (James 2:26), so also love without works is dead. Love is an action and giving is the greatest expression of love. If we love, we give. We are the love child of a love God and love always gives. Paul wrote in Gal. 2:20b, "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Don't just give of your resources, give of yourself. Instead of paying to have your church painted, get up off that comfortable chair and go down to the church and help do the work. Don't love from a distance but personally get

involved. 1 Tim. 6:18 says, "Let them do good that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share."

Giving should be the lifestyle of every born-again believer and this includes a whole lot more than money. Finances are only a small part of giving and before money can be given we need to first be willing to cheerfully give of ourselves. We need to get involved in the lives of other people and when we do we'll quickly realize that there is always something we can give that will promote the lives of those we come in contact with. We can give people our love, time, loyalty, fellowship, counsel, prayers, our words and any natural resource we have at our disposal. Love gives whatever is needed and we also need to be consistent in our giving. Daily look for ways to give and enrich those around you. Buy a co-worker a cup of coffee or bake a dozen cookies and give them to a neighbour. Give somebody you know a phone call and tell them how blessed you are to have them as a friend. Offer to baby-sit at no charge for a single mother with four children who

never gets a chance to be by herself and do the things she truly enjoys. Take an elderly person to the shopping mall with you or a fatherless child to a ballgame. And, if nothing else, you can always give somebody a smile and a friendly "hello." Let people see the joy that is within you. And who knows? These acts of kindness may birth in them the desire to know the same God you know. What more can a person offer another than the opportunity to receive eternal life?

John 4:23 says, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him." Everybody likes praise. God likes praise. People like praise. Even cats and dogs like praise. Praise is a sign of acceptance and is this not the primary need of all people? Throughout history people have gone to great lengths to accomplish great deeds all for the purpose of being noticed and accepted by others. People have a craving to be received willingly and favourably. They want to be approved of and believed in. We need to learn to

accept people not based on our preference or their performance but because God has accepted them. Paul says in Rom. 15:7, "Therefore receive one another just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God." The Message Bible states "So reach out and welcome one another to Gods' glory. Jesus did it, now you do it!" Just as we praise and worship God for His worthiness, so must we compliment and lift up other people for theirs. Words are the most important thing in the universe. They can build up or tear down and they reveal what is in a persons' heart. When you submit your life to God submit your words to Him as well. "Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift" (Eph. 4:29 MSG).

The NKJV Bible instructs us to "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Paul is telling us to take our words, wrap them with truth, love, and sincerity, and as a gift present them to whoever is close by. The NIV states "Do not let any unwholesome talk come

out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Words that do not benefit another person must be left unspoken. Compliments spoken from the heart make people feel good about them and birth in them the desire to respond back in a favourable manner to the person giving the compliment. This leads to unity among the brethren and this should be the ultimate goal of every believer. A compliment spoken from the heart can "break the ice" between strangers and will open the door that leads to a life of love, fellowship, and faithful service to our Heavenly Father. If you will take the time and make the effort you will always find something good in the lives of people to compliment them about. And, by all means, be sincere in your praise giving. Nobody likes false praise. Covenant love means you will be real and honest in your relationships. Let your compliments come from a conviction in your heart that you really believe what you're saying. If you will remain sincere, in turn, you also will be blessed as you heap praises upon those around you. Prov. 15:23

says, "A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is."

Our God is a giving God and there is no better indicator of His presence in our hearts than in the attitude we develop about giving. How you give determines and reveals what's inside of you. Jesus said in Matt. 10:8b, "Freely you have received, and freely give." You received because God freely gave. It pleased the Father to have Jesus pay the price for our sins (Is. 53:10) and it pleased Jesus to do so (Heb. 12:2). You can't doubt God's love for us because He gave us the most precious thing He had - His Son! Jesus submitted His will to that of the Heavenly Father and went to the cross for us proving that suffering that doesn't benefit others is vain. Jesus shed His blood and freely gave up His life for us and because He lives in our hearts we can freely give to others. Godly love gives with no strings attached and with no thought of being repaid. If you're selfish and stingy or if you expect something in return from your giving then you're either not born-again or you're not letting the love of

God lead you and guide you. If people owe you something because you gave to them then God is not your source - people are - and this is unbelief. If you want something in return then you're not giving. Love is not a loan; it's a gift that must be given quickly, willingly, and gladly.

One must forever be on guard because the devil is a thief who will continually attempt to steal from you the proper motive you should have for your giving. Luke 4:5-7 reveals to us the selfishness of devilish giving, "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if you will worship before me, all will be yours.'" Devilish giving is when you give expecting something in return from the person you gave it to. It's when you say, "I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine" (see Luke 6:30-36). The devil was bribing Jesus and by manipulation was trying to get something back from Him. Those

who give this way have minds that have been blinded by the god of this age and will live a life of deception and destruction. 2 Cor. 4:4 (MSG) gives a description of those who submit to devilish giving, "All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the day-spring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get." The picture Jesus painted was of a loving and freely giving Father and when His example is followed we'll overcome every attempt of the devil to get us to do otherwise.

1 John 3:14 says, "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death." When you lay down your life for the brother's sacrifices are made. You must give up something in order to walk in love. We live in a selfish world and the needs of other people aren't even noticed anymore. People are too busy thinking only of them

and spend too much time on their jobs, hobbies, and the pursuit of worldly pleasures. The devil is a master of preoccupation and if you'll let him he'll consume all your time thus preventing you from having the time and resources to bless others. Selfishness is a work of the flesh and Paul writes in Gal. 5:19-21 (MSG), "It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cut-throat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on."

Love, on the other hand, freely gives and this is what separates devilish giving from Godly giving. The word "give" is in the Bible some 2000 times and

giving is the greatest expression of love there is. Giving is not what you do, it's what you are! God is love, and love gives. Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20a). Jesus freely gave Himself to you and now you must give yourself to somebody else. Don't do this mournfully and act like it's a burden to you. Giving brings joy so put a smile on your face and help somebody cheerfully and willingly. Jesus said in John 13:17, "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." The joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10) and sadness makes you weak. If all you do is think of yourself you'll be sad and weak all the time and it's a bad witness to the world for a believer to be depressed. Remember, the world is watching you. If you help others you'll be stronger, happier, and more blessed than if you did something for yourself. We all have limits on our time, money, and resources and what you spend on yourself you can't spend on somebody else. It's a choice you'll have to make. If you live only for yourself you'll lose your life and it will slip away like sand flowing through your

fingers. Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. He let Himself be sacrificed and we have to have the same mindset. And when we, like Jesus, put others first we also will have joy unspeakable.

The application of this we walk in the light of God's word. Let the word of God be a lamp unto thy feet and a lamp unto thy path. This from God whom is the God of Love not wrath!

The method of teaching adopted by Jesus was that of painting a parabolic picture for the people allowing it to tell its' own story. He was never without a parable when He spoke and like a skilled potter would mould and shape His messages to fit the experience and maturity of His listeners. These parables bore the stamp of originality and were given to influence the thoughts, words, actions, and purposes of all who listened, Later, when He was alone with His disciples, He would go over everything and give them a full explanation of the truth He was

attempting to convey. Since many in His audience were farmers Jesus would often speak in their language for many could grasp the concept of seedtime and harvest. One such story is "The Parable of the Growing Seed" and is found in Mark 4:26-29. Of the four gospels this story is given by Mark alone and is one of the three parables which reveal the mysteries of the kingdom of God in terms of a sower's work. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Much can be learned by a careful study of this parable and one of the foremost truths revealed is that our God is a God of order. One only has to look at a farmer's field to catch a glimpse of

how God does things. First comes the blade, then the head, and after that the full grain in the head. God is sequence-minded and He never puts the cart before the horse. In the book of Genesis we read that the heavens and the earth were created in an orderly fashion. God had a plan for the first day of creation, then the second day, the third, and so forth. Consider everything the high priests in the Old Testament had to do before they entered the Holy of Holies. They couldn't just waltz into the presence of God unannounced. No, cleansings had to be performed and offerings had to be made (see Lev. 16). With much fear and trembling this was done in an orderly fashion and in a God-ordained sequence. If the proper order was not followed to the letter it would mean the end of their life. A rope was tied to the ankle of the High Priest so he could be pulled out from behind the veil in case he didn't follow the prescribed sequence and dropped over dead. God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33)

and to Him sequence is a serious matter and so should it be for us.

Paul writes, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40). People, who wake up, get dressed, and go to work do so in an orderly manner. But the person who wakes up, goes to work, and then gets dressed is on their way to having a very bad day. Without a doubt, a proper sequence is most important in everything we do. For example, sex before marriage is an action taken out of a proper, God-ordained sequence and many lives have been destroyed as a result thereof. To get your needs met there is a sequence to be followed. Matt. 6:33 tells us, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." There is a sequence to be followed when it comes to our relationship with God and our war against the devil. James 4:7 says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." It is foolish to try to resist the devil without first

submitting yourself to God. The seven sons of Sceva tried to do this and Acts 19:15, 16 tells us what happened to them, "And the evil spirit answered and said, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." James goes on to say in vs. 8, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Gods' foremost command is for each of us to love and serve one another. You were born to love and called to serve and in our relationships with other people there is a proper order to do things. Paul also used the language of a farmer when he wrote in 1 Cor. 3:6, "I planted, Apollo's watered, but God gave the increase." The Message Bible says, "We each carried out our servant assignment. I planted the seed, Apollo's watered the plants, but God made you grow."

Again, a prescribed sequence was followed thus allowing God to give life to the seed that was sown. In Lev. 19 God gave Moses the laws of social order and said in vs. 18, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord." Jesus quoted this command to love your neighbour as you love yourself in Mark 12:31 as did Paul in Rom. 13:9. The proper sequence here is that you must first love yourself before you can love your neighbour. You must become your own best friend and rejoice in the person God made you to be. You are a one of a kind original and there is nobody on this planet quite like you. Because of the cross you have been made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21) and Paul says in Rom. 8:16,17a, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." The Message Bible says, "This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-

tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?' Gods' Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us - an unbelievable inheritance."

Jesus said a great deal about love but none was more important as what He said in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give you that you love one another; as I have loved you, whom you also love one another." Before you can love yourself or your neighbour you must have a divine revelation that God loves you. Then and only then can the love command be fulfilled in your life. Jesus prayed in John 17:23b, "that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me." It takes faith to believe that the Heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus. Your mind can not comprehend this much love. Your mind will tell you this is not so because Jesus never sinned, ever rebelled, were never disobedient,

and never displeased the Father. When Jesus was baptized "suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'" (Matt. 3:17) Your mind will try to convince you that there is no way the Father can love you as much as He loves Jesus. But He does. In fact, He loves you so much that He sent Jesus to die for you (John 3:16). Your mind is limited in its' capacity to believe such profound truths such as this so don't try to reason it all out. Just believe it by faith. Faith is a choice and does not require understanding. You can believe anything the Bible tells you if you would only choose to do so.

It's not enough to just believe in God and that He exists. You have to believe that He loves you. James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe - and tremble." The Message Bible puts it this way, "Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done

something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads!" Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17) so you need to hear yourself say every day, "God loves me!!" Say it again, "God loves me!!" Once more, "God loves me!!" You need to meditate on this day and night. You need to confess it, sing about it, read about it, and hear good preaching about it. There is no life as exciting as the victorious life that comes from knowing God loves you. His great love has delivered you from the guilt of sin and the shame of your failures and mistakes. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). God remembers your sin no more (Jer. 31:34) and if you confess your sins He is faithful and just to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). If you're forgiven, you're forgiven. If you're cleansed, you're cleansed. There is no condemnation in Christ (Rom.8:1) and we have no fear of judgment and

punishment. Indeed, He is the glory and the lifter of your head (Ps. 3:3).

John writes, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 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" (1 John 4:15, 16) There is a difference between knowing God loves you and believing that He does. Divine revelation is needed for you to be fully developed in knowing the love God has for you. John called himself "that disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 21:7) and this should be your confession as well. Who are you? You're the one God loves. God is love and He loves you. You can't be any more loved than when you are loved by Love. God said in Jer. 31:3, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving-kindness I have drawn you." God is drawing you into a love relationship with Him. He enjoys loving you and

he delights in blessing you and showing you mercy. He is thinking about you today and He's got a plan for your life (see Jer. 29:11). He'll lead you and guide you in the way you should go and He'll never leave you or forsake you. He cares so much about you that He keeps count of the number of hairs on your head. His eyes roam to and fro across the earth looking for someone to show Him strong on their behalf. Jesus said, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father, I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you..." (John 15:15,16a).

Your claim to fame is that you are loved by God and it is an insult to Him when you don't know and believe that. One day Jesus and His disciples were in a boat crossing over to the other side of the sea. "And a great wind-storm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that

it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'" (Mark 4:37, 38). These disciples questioned whether or not Jesus loved them and fear gripped their heart. After rebuking the storm and a great calm fell upon the water Jesus turned to His disciples and "said to them, 'why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?' And they feared exceedingly..." (vs. 40,41a) One way to know if you truly believe God loves you is whether or not there is fear in your life. If you fear you won't be able to pay your bills this month then you're not fully convinced in your heart that God loves you. If cancer runs in your family and you fear that one day you'll catch this dreaded disease, then you are not totally persuaded that God loves you as much as He loves Jesus. But if you're walking in love you'll have no fear. 1 John 4:18 says, "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."

Faith works by knowing how much God loves you. Faith works through love (Gal. 5:6) and this is the key to your victory in life and for overcoming the trials that come your way. Heb. 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." The Message Bible says, "It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that He exists and that He cares enough to respond to those who seek Him." Faith is a choice. You chose to believe in the goodness of God, that He is, and that He will reward you if you seek Him diligently. David wrote in Ps. 27:13, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Faith is activated and works by love and it's this perfect love that will cast fear out of your life. The word "cast" means 'to throw out not caring where it lands.' Without

fear in your life you won't be afraid of the devil, people, death, car crashes, cancer, or of losing your job. Paul wrote in 2 Tim. 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." When you're fearless you're a problem to the devil because he can't scare you. Rom. 8:37 says you "are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Gods' love gives you the victory every time. Paul writes, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14)

The closer you walk with God the more He'll manifest His love in your life. Just walk outside and look around and you'll see the goodness of God fully displayed. All that you see He made for you. He made the sun and the moon and all the planets so that the earth could be here and He made the earth so that you could be here. He made it all for you. That magnificent mountain range is for you as is that beautiful rainbow and the green grass that grows near your home. The

reason the sun shines by day and the moon by night is for you. The reason the ocean rolls onto the sand is for you. The stars twinkle at night and the wind blows and the trees sprout their leaves all for you. The flowers bloom across the fields and the birds sing their beautiful harmonies for you. All these things say with a loud voice, "God loves you!!" Every meal you eat God is saying "I love you!" Every breath you take and every time your heart beats God is saying "I love you!" Rom. 8:31, 32 says, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" The birth of Jesus said to the world, "God loves you!!" and if He gave you Jesus He'll heal your body and give you a sound mind. He'll give you a nice house to live in and a car, a job, and a family. He'll help you comb your hair in the morning and He'll help you drive to work each day. He is the living God "who gives us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17b). All

things are yours because of the great love He has for you. It is because of His unfailing and never-ending love that you have been crowned with glory and honour (Ps. 8:5b).

Never doubt the love of God. When you do, you doubt God for He is love. Every day you're alive He demonstrates His love for you beyond question. John writes, "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:19). He could give no greater gift. He loved us while we were His enemies and not for what we were doing for Him. He does not have to do one more thing to prove that He loves you. He's already done it. Paul asks, "Who shall separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35). He answers his own question in vs. 38,39, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor

principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The Message Bible says, "I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely nothing can get between us and Gods' love because of the way Jesus our Master has embraced us." As Jesus hung and bled on the cross the Father was showing you how much He loves you. The cross is a picture of love, it's what love looks like. Jesus paid the highest price that could ever be paid. And He did it all for you.

1 John 3:1a says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" The word "behold" means 'look.' Look how much the Father loves you! You are an amazing, one of a kind, child of

the living God! He bought you with a price and you are most valuable to Him. You are the apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8) and you can have boldness on the Day of Judgment because the one sitting on the throne loves you. You are loved by Love and God is not quiet about how much He loves you. He wants the whole world to know it. Jesus said in John 17:22, 23, "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." In the book of Revelation Jesus told John to write these profound words to the church in Philadelphia, "Indeed, I will make these of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie - indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you' (Rev. 3:9). Imagine that. The enemy will be brought to your feet and shown that God loves you. The Message Bible states it like this, "And watches as I take those

who call themselves true believers but are nothing of the kind, pretenders whose true membership is in the club of Satan - watch as I strip off their pretensions and they're forced to acknowledge it's you I've loved."

God wants the whole world to know that he is a God of love and that He loves you. Go public and tell people all that God has done for you. Love your neighbour and tell them if you draw near to God, he'll draw near to you. If you seek Him with your whole heart He'll be found by you. If you'll ask, you'll receive. If you knock, it will be opened unto you. He is a good God and when you reach out to Him, He will respond back to you. If you believe in the love and mercy of God you can enjoy your life even knowing you've sinned and come short of the glory of God. Mercy means you don't get the punishment you deserve but rather get the blessings you don't deserve. All this and more because God loves you so much that He gave

you Jesus. You are loved by Love and Gods' grace will pardon and cleanse you and make you whole. 1 John 4:10,11 tells us, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." Herein is the threefold sequence of fulfilling Gods' command to walk in love. God loves you, you love yourself and then you love your neighbour. Loving other people is the stamp of approval that you have been born again and believe that you are loved by Love. John writes, "We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death" (1 John 4:14).

John, the apostle of love, the one who openly confessed that he was loved by Jesus, tells us in 1 John 3:11, "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." He went on to say in vs. 16-24

(MSG), "This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed His life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to Gods' love? It disappears. And you make it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in Gods' reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves. And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what He said, doing what pleases Him. Again, this is Gods' command: to believe in His personally named

Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep His commands, we live deeply and surely in Him, and He lives in us. And this is how we experience His deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit He gave us." Without question, God loves you. You are loved by Love and by faith you believe that and love Him back. Now, when the shouting subsides, go out and be a blessing to someone else. It's what He paid the ultimate price for you to do.

(Psalm 119:105) I personally thank you for your purchase of this e-book and donation to the "Word of Faith ministries international" and I leave you with this slogan that I always use as my signature *"Jesus and The Word are One"*

now operations in Charity registration

ABN:39326050887

<http://divineconnexionsofchrist.com>