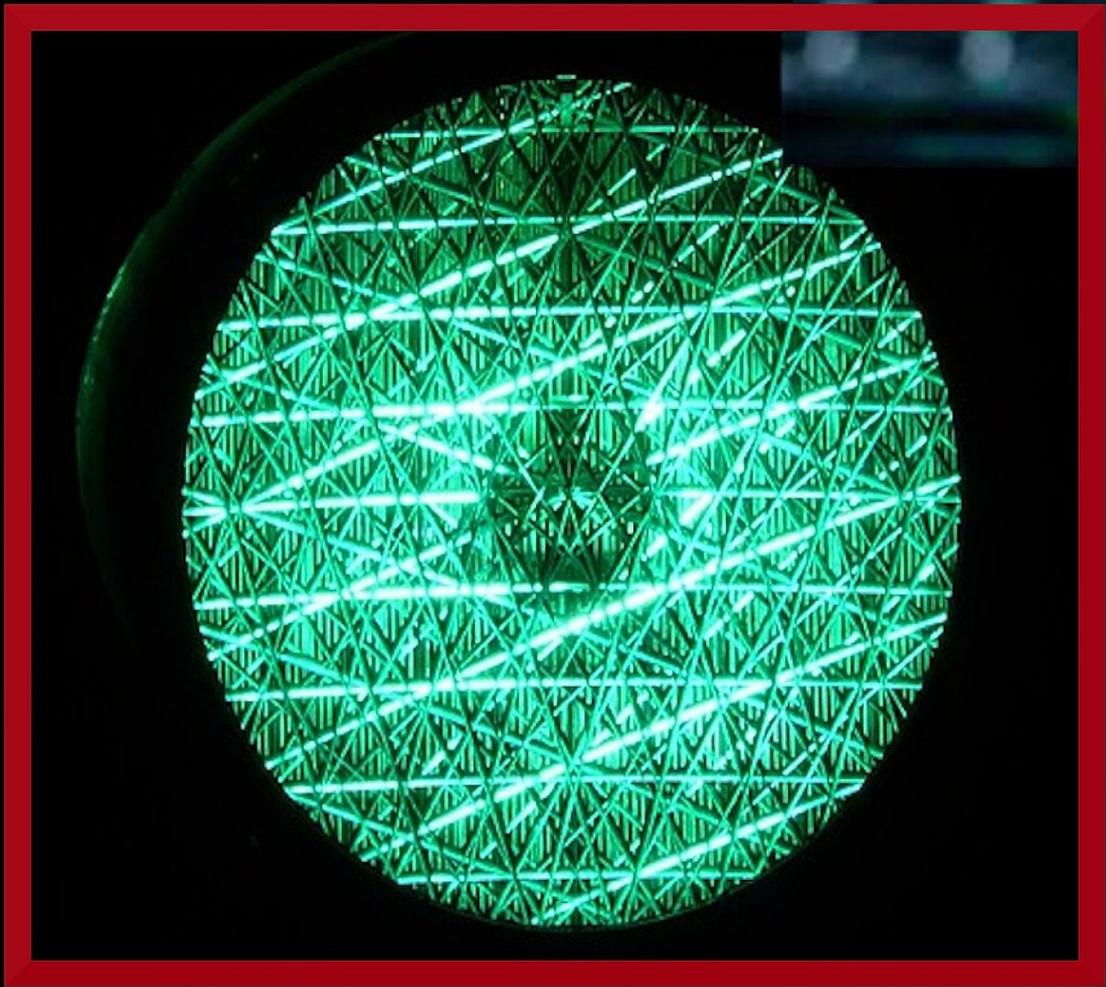


THE GOSPEL OF *Jesus Christ*



Salvation and Restoration

ASR MARTINS

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST: SALVATION AND RESTORATION

Church Planters and Evangelism Teams need a message of hope to enable them to advance the kingdom of God effectively.

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BY

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The content of this book was given in the form of a spoken message that was recorded for a radio program broadcast on Lighthouse Radio. For this reason, the style of the book reflects the spoken form.

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Introduction

Church Planters and Evangelism Teams need a message of hope to enable them to advance the kingdom of God effectively. They need the full Gospel of Christ. This enables them to intervene in the lives of people. This enables them to change the circumstances and the lives of people. This is a divine tool given by God and we need to use this tool in the way that God intended.

Even if people fail to do this because of a lack of faith, they still can preach a message of hope which in itself changes people's lives. It gives people hope in this dark world with all its challenges and it gives them something to live for and to strive for. This message of hope makes people realize that nothing is impossible in life. Nothing is indeed impossible to God and therefore nothing is impossible for us as his children.

When church leaders make this tool available to the members of the congregation, by allowing them to make use of the full gospel of Christ, they empower the greatest tool on earth to be unleashed into the world of unsaved people. What is the greatest tool in the world? The greatest tool is the laborers of God. By allowing the laborers of God to make use of the full gospel of Christ, church leaders empower them to be extremely successful in their efforts to advance the kingdom of God. It empowers them to plant new churches effectively. It empowers them to make new converts and to disciple new converts effectively. It empowers them to expand the church and their own congregations tremendously.

This is the reason why this manual was compiled. This manual gives the laborers the basic, but full gospel of Christ. This manual is in fact a crash course aimed at giving the new converts the basic knowledge that they need to go out almost immediately to advance the kingdom of God. It gives them the tools and the knowledge to preach a message of hope.

Church leaders should utilize this tool immediately when they start their Evangelism Program. It can be printed by Church Leaders and anyone who wants to use this manual for training purposes.

Chapter 1 - The True Gospel Of Jesus Christ

In this manual, we are going to explore the reasons why Jesus Christ came, and what the consequences or the results of his sacrifice and death and resurrection were, and the significance of his appointment as the Head of the Church and his appointment as the ruler of the kingdom of God?

If we know why Jesus came and if we know what He did for us and what He made available to us, and who He is and who we are and what we were appointed to reign over, we will be able to receive whatever He gave us much easier than we do today. People struggle to receive their healing and they struggle to live a life of miracles. Despite what Jesus did, despite who He is and who we are and despite his appointment and our appointment, Christians are still suffering. They struggle because they fail to make all these things work for them. They have the most powerful weapon in their hands but they never use it. They just carry it with them wherever they go and some forgot what they did with this weapon. They somehow lost it somewhere.

The fact that the church is struggling so much and the fact that the church does not seem to take its place of dominion and victory is an indication that something is wrong. The church is wandering in the wilderness. The church is not sitting on the throne of Christ in him and with him. People are struggling. People are living lives of defeat. Christians are living mediocre lives and they do not progress or develop spiritually as they should. They fail to set themselves free and they fail to set others free.

I have mentioned several times in this book that, most of all, false doctrines are to be blamed. False doctrines keep the church on its knees. It was created for this purpose. It has a devastating effect on both individual Christians and the church as a whole. We have discussed a few false doctrines already and we did discuss a few distracting strategies that the enemy wants every believer to embark upon.

However, in this chapter, we are going to discuss a very important aspect of Christianity that is not so much a false doctrine but rather an aspect that Christians do not understand. Make no mistake, the devil is largely responsible for keeping this a secret. He does not want people to know these aspects of their faith-walk in Christ. If people know these facts they will receive their healing or deliverance a lot easier and they will live lives of victory and success a lot easier.

To have a meaningful discussion about this aspect, I need to lay a bit of a foundation in this regard. In the beginning, God created the universe, including the earth and the human race. He created us in his image. Unfortunately, sin came into this world and the human race lost its glory and those characteristics that made us like God, resulting in all sorts of bad things coming into our lives. Death, sicknesses, diseases and calamities and toil and hardships and all sorts of undesirable things and situations became a reality in our lives. We lost quite a lot on that day. Adam and Eve sinned but if anyone on this earth were in their shoes, the same would have happened. This is what the Bible says about it:

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:10-18

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 3:23-25

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

What we see in these Scriptures is that we all have sinned before God. None of us is good. We all sinned and as a result of that, the human race faced the wrath of God. We faced eternal judgment.

Fortunately for us, God had a plan. His plan was not only to save us from judgment but also to restore us completely. He loved humanity so much, He could not allow us to be destroyed forever.

So He gave his Son Jesus Christ, not only to pay the penalty of sin, by taking the chastisement and the punishment that was supposed to be on us. When you read the whole chapter of Isaiah 53 you will understand what Jesus did. He took everything on him so that we can go free.

Isaiah 53

1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

In this Scripture, it is clear that Jesus brought complete reconciliation between God and us. It is also clear that healing is part of the reconciliation. This means that God did not only let us go free, He also completely restored us but there is a condition. We receive it all through faith. It only comes by believing. Everything comes through faith by believing every word and by living by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God.

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Even the Old Testament confirms this:

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Matthew 4:4

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Isaiah 53 declared complete reconciliation and Matthew 4:4 says how we can be reconciled and restored.

So for the salvation of our souls we need to believe the word of God (that proceeded out of his mouth) that deals with salvation and for restoration, we need to believe the word of God (that proceeded out of his mouth) that deals with restoration.

Let us look at a few Scriptures that deal with salvation:

Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

1 Peter 1:8-9

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

John 5:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 5:10

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

2 Timothy 1:9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

When we look at these Scriptures, and there are hundreds more, we can see that by believing the word of God we are saved. And that it comes by grace.

Now let us look at a few Scriptures that deal with restoration:

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Jeremiah 30:17

For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord...

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Acts 3:19

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Psalm 103:1-5

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

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

4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Faith makes our salvation a reality and faith makes our restoration a reality. It is so true and so clear that God wants us to live victorious and blessed and full lives.

3 John 1:2

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

After the fall of humanity, God immediately “made plans” to save us and to restore us and to make sure that it is well with our souls. He knew what was going to happen even before the creation of the universe. His plans were aimed at benefiting us and to make us prosper. He made sure that evil does not destroy us and He removed the consequences of sin from us.

That is why Jesus came. John said that Jesus came to take away the sins of the world. His blood did not just cover the sins of people, it took it away. In him is no sin and we are in him. That is why John said in his letters that the regenerated spirit of man can't sin. The moment we are born again, our spirits are regenerated. John said that the spirit of man cannot sin because we are born of the Spirit of God, to be more specific, and because we keep our eyes on Jesus and by doing so, we keep ourselves pure, just as pure as Jesus himself, by the way.

This is also the way that God dealt with sicknesses and diseases and calamities when it comes to the penalty of sin. He took it away so that we do not have to be sick and so that we do not have to suffer. Because sin has been taken away, the penalty of sin cannot exist. Because there is no sin, the penalty of sin, hell, sicknesses, diseases and calamities cannot exist. The sicknesses and the diseases that people bring over themselves are not punishment. It is the automatic result of sin, however, Christians do experience chastisement from God directly. This is like a father dealing with his children harshly in an attempt to ensure their salvation, but as I have said in previous chapters, this happens relatively rarely.

Isaiah 53 says that Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was

upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Remember that Isaiah 53 is a prophecy about Jesus many years before Jesus came. It was pointing to the future. That is why it said that by his stripes you are healed. In 1 Peter 2:24 Peter said that *Jesus bared our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*. Peter understood that our sins were taken away and he understood that we were healed two thousand years ago on that cross. Both are in the past. Jesus saved us two thousand years ago by taking our sins away. The moment that He took our sins on him, that moment it left all people who were alive at that time and it is true for everybody, even people who are living today.

According to the custom back in the time of the Roman Empire, Jesus probably received thirty-nine lashes with a whip before He was crucified and that is when He took the penalty of sin away in regards to sicknesses and diseases. By his stripes, we were healed. That is when He took sicknesses, diseases, and calamities away from us. He does not heal anymore, He healed us two thousand years ago on that cross. As soon as Christians understand this it opens a whole lot of doors for them.

The most important fact is the following: There is only one reason why people are not saved yet or not healed yet. Only one reason why people did not yet receive their salvation or their healing. They are not saved yet because they do not believe it yet. They are not healed yet because they do not believe yet. No matter who you are or what you are or what you have done, the lack of belief is the only thing that stands between you and salvation or you and healing.

As soon as people believe in Christ and accept Him as their Savior, they are saved. They never have to wonder or worry that for some reason they are not included in the promises of God. The Bible says everyone has sinned and everybody falls short. God said through James in James 2:10 that *whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all*. This means that everybody is guilty of the whole law.

This truth puts all people under the same category. Everybody sinned at least once and everybody is, therefore, guilty of the whole law and therefore equal in this regard. Because all people are equally bad in the eyes of God, nobody is regarded as a blue-eyed girl or blue-eyed boy or a favorite in God's eyes. In his eyes, we are all the same. Nobody gets special treatment ever.

It is for this reason that everybody, no matter who you are or where you are, or whatever you did, you will be saved only because of grace and because you believed.

The same is true for healing and for deliverance. The penalty of sin is the same for everybody. Whosoever sinned will be punished when Jesus comes. The punishment is for the whole law because we are held accountable for the whole law, we are guilty of transgressing the whole law. Unless they believed in Christ and accepted Jesus Christ, no matter what they did when Jesus comes, everybody will receive the same punishment.

If you sinned only once or twice or many times, or continuously, you are still guilty of the whole law in God's eyes. So if everybody is guilty of the whole law, everybody is equally guilty and therefore the penalty of sin is the same for everyone. Whatever you did, the penalty for whatever you did is the same for everybody. It is all called grace. Grace ensures that everybody is treated the same. Grace makes everything equal for everybody.

Jesus carried the penalty for sin on him on that cross. He was punished in our place so that we do not need to be punished. But that is only true if we accepted him as our Savior. Because we believe we are saved and because we believe we are healed. The sin and the penalty of sin can never be disconnected from each other.

Repentance does not remove the sin, the sin was removed two thousand years ago. Repentance does not remove the penalty of sin, the penalty of sin was removed two thousand years ago. Healing is part of the atonement. It is yes and amen for everybody. However, both these works of restoration cannot become a reality in our lives until the day that we believe and act on the promise.

Believing and acting cause salvation and healing to manifest in our lives.

In Genesis already it was promised that the seed of the woman will bring victory. Sin and evil will be defeated. Isaiah promised that Jesus will come. After the Son did come, John the Baptist promised that the Son of God will take away the sins of the world. Jesus was crucified and He did take the penalty of sin onto him on that cross when He was whipped. Peter confirmed that the Son of God healed us two thousand years ago. Both salvation and healing belong to all of us. It is ours through grace. None of us can ever earn it. Christians are living on this earth, completely unaware of the fact that they could have received their healing, many years ago, just as easily as they received their salvation. They are completely unaware of the fact that salvation and restoration form part of one complete package. Both are the same. Both require faith, both require nothing else but faith, both come through grace and we cannot earn either of them.

Is there really no other requirement, other than believing, to receive our salvation? The Bible says that it is through grace that we are saved, not by works. Is there any requirement, other than believing, to receive our healing? No, we receive our healing through grace, not by works. Can a person receive his healing before he receives his salvation? Yes, it happened in the Bible and it still happens today. Jesus healed everybody without any exception. Everybody that was brought to him or who came to him were healed.

Salvation is not a requirement for healing. It does not matter who you are or what you have done, whether you are saved or unsaved, whether you are a good Christian or a bad Christian, whether you have sinned in your life, whether you are a Christian or a Muslim or a satanist. You will be healed when a person who believes lays his hands on you to heal you. There are absolutely no requirements for healing just as there is none for salvation, other than believing.

However, salvation is a requirement to keep your healing. Repentance is a requirement to keep your healing. To abstain from

sinning is a requirement to keep your healing. We can lose our healing but we can be healed again, even if we did lose our healing before.

Whatever opportunity comes first in a person's life, healing or salvation, it will happen because both come by grace and there is no requirement for both. Both are part of the atonement. We only need to believe.

So with both, believing is a requirement but, with healing, somebody else can believe for you as Jesus did. With salvation, another person cannot believe for you. God said that we must go out into all the world, proclaim the gospel of Christ, heal the sick and cast out demons. All of these things require faith. It requires a person who believes in God and who has faith in God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. A person of faith will be able to heal people.

This is not true with salvation. God said that we must deliver people but He did not say that we must save people. Only He can save people. We cannot save people but we can preach the gospel of Christ to them.

When we deliver people we command things in their lives or their bodies. We command healing, we command deliverance, we command a spirit to leave a person. We cast devils out of them. On the other hand, we cannot lay our hands on an unsaved person and command that person to be saved. We cannot say "Be saved, in Jesus Name". Salvation does not work that way. Deliverance works that way. That is why we can deliver another person and that is why we can believe for another person with deliverance. We do it just like Jesus did.

Matthew 8:16

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.

Matthew 12:15

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.

Matthew 15:30

And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them.

Matthew 9:35

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

So Jesus healed everybody but He warned people not to sin anymore for worse things will come over them. But not only did Jesus heal everybody that was sick, even the disciples did:

Matthew 10:1

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Acts 5:12-16

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

15 Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

16 There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Verse 16 says that the disciples healed every one. They healed them all.

So even the apostles did heal them all. The only time that we cannot heal people, is when people are offended by us. When they do not want us to pray for them because of them being offended by us. In such cases, we leave without praying for them. We are not welcome there and we should not force ourselves upon such people. We can heal them all if we want to but do you want to heal people who despise you? The Bible calls it unbelief but that unbelief is more about them regarding Christians illegitimate like they did with Jesus in Nazareth. The few people who He did pray for were probably a few people who were not offended by him. After the incident, they probably followed him and told him that they do not agree with the majority in the city, so He prayed for them and He healed them all.

This was not a matter of them causing an atmosphere of unbelief and by doing so causing Jesus to be powerless. Nothing can remove the power and authority of God. He just decided not to pray for them because of them being so offended by him and I would have done the same.

Several times in the New Testament the disciples of Jesus could not heal people or they could not cast out devils. When they asked Jesus about this the answer was always that they lacked faith or that it was because of unbelief. It was never because of any other reason. Even with the casting out of the demonic spirit mentioned in Matthew 17, Jesus said that it was because of unbelief.

Matthew 17:19-21

19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

In this Scripture, Jesus confirms that they failed because of a lack of faith. He said that it was because of unbelief. Verse 21 probably dealt with the reason why they experienced unbelief. A lack of prayer and fasting.

In this case, the fasting and the praying are not to ask God for more faith or for more power to cast out these demons. We have all the faith that we need and we have all the power that we need. We also do not ask God to make the demons weaker because no demon can stand before the power of the Holy Spirit, no matter how strong he is. Fasting and praying in general help us to be willing and open and committed instruments in the hands of God, ready to do whatever we need to do to deliver people. The problem was their unbelief. When Christians do not spend time with God, when they do not seek the face of God, everything in life becomes more difficult or more challenging to deal with. People might not be ready to face a certain situation because they do not pray or spent time with God. Yes, faith comes through hearing and hearing by the word of God, but we do need to spend time with God also, not just with his word.

I have heard of people who are very skeptical when it comes to the body of Christ regarding healing as part of the atonement. God knew that people will doubt this and that is why He included a cross-reference about this in the Bible. With this cross-reference, He completely removed any doubt about this. We read about this in Matthew 8:13-17.

13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Verse 17 confirms that when Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 53 that Jesus would take our infirmities on him and that He would bare our sicknesses, he meant physical illnesses and diseases, as Jesus demonstrated when He healed Peter's wife's mother.

Luke 4 confirmed this even more. Just after Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, many sick people arrived at the house and Jesus healed them all. That is why Jesus came, according to Isaiah 53. He came to take our sins away (He took it on him) and the penalty of sin, death, sicknesses and diseases and calamities (He took it on him) and hell (He went to hell for us when He died). So He took everything on him and we do not have to experience any of this.

Unsaved people do not have to live as they do. They can be saved in an instant. They just need to believe and receive their salvation. Sick people do not have to be sick. They just need to believe and receive their healing. People do not have to go to hell. They just need to believe and they will never see hell. People do not have to be poor and suffer and struggle. They just need to believe and receive the provision of God and they will live prosperous lives. They can live victoriously and successfully in Christ right now. Christ Jesus was poor, He did not possess anything. He slept under trees so that we do not have to lack anything.

God the Father restored everything through Christ Jesus his Son. He made everything available to us. We do not have to ask him for anything. We do not have to beg him for anything. Everything is already ours. It belongs to us. It is yes and amen for everybody. God is not a respecter of persons. We are all equal in his sight. We all have equal rights to everything that He made available to us. We just have to take it. It belongs to us. You do not have to question the will of God ever. He wants everyone, good or bad, saved or unsaved, to receive the gifts that He gave them.

Someone once asked me about the instruction to pray with much pleading and much tears to God. She wanted to know why is that instruction in the Bible if we can only believe and command things in our lives. The answer to that question is the following. Nowhere in the Bible does God say that we need to pray through crying. We do not have to cry when we ask him for something. We should pray by giving thanks to God. Yes, many Scriptures referred to people who cried whilst they were praying, even Jesus Christ cried when He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. But God never instructed us to cry when we pray. This is how we should pray according to Philippians 4:6.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

There are many things in life that we have no control over. These things all have to do with other people and the will of other people. This is how we need to pray for those things. When you pray for the president or the government or a country or lost souls or the salvation of your children, or for a specific situation you need to pray like this. This is when we plead before God and when we can even cry before God if we want to.

This prayer has nothing to do with you taking up your full inheritance and slaying the giants in your life and restoring yourself and the lives of other people. This type of prayer achieves very little in this regard. Restoration and victory come through boldly reigning over your circumstances and situations in all areas

of your life. You achieve victory and deliverance through obedience and by reigning over these circumstances. Not by praying according to this instruction in Philippians 4. Philippians 4:6 has to do with other people and situations outside our sphere of influence or dominion. If we want such situations to change we let God know about these petitions and requests through prayer and pleading and thanksgiving.

Chapter 2 – The Power Of the Baptisms

In this chapter, we are going to look at the Biblical aspects of the baptisms. We are going to discuss the reasons why water baptism is such a powerful experience in the church. We are going to discuss the reasons why it is not merely a symbolic act but actually an act of obedience for the remission of sin that literally rocks the spiritual world. It literally causes havoc among demons and it literally has a powerful impact on the spiritual realm. Just take a look at some of the YouTube videos of water baptisms that were carried out for the remission of sins as an act of obedience and repentance. I have left a few links to some of these videos at the bottom of this page.

There is a huge difference between the two. The symbolic baptism has no power and has no spiritual value. To follow Jesus Christ through the water by dying with him and rise with him is something different. It is not a symbolic act but an act that has a powerful impact on us and the spiritual world. It changes a lot of things in our lives. It brings freedom. It delivers us from a lot of negative things. It sets us free from bondage and it washes away our sins.

In this chapter, we are also going to discuss the power of the baptism in the Holy Spirit but let's start with the water baptism first. To understand water baptism, we need to answer questions like the following: When people are baptized the Biblical way, why are demons putting up a fight and manifesting when people are on their way to be baptized or when they are standing in the water, about to be baptized, and very often, when people are under the water just before they come up out of the water? No, it is not always because of the anointing on the person who baptizes the person.

I had such an experience once. I baptized a man in the name of Jesus Christ and the moment he was under the water demonic spirits started to manifest and I had to grab the man and pull him out of the water. The demonic spirits were then cast out and this

person was delivered from bondage. Why did this happen when he was baptized?

We also need to look at questions like, does the water baptism save us? What happens when a person did repent but failed to be baptized? What do I need to do if I am not sure whether I was baptized the right way? I am going to answer all these questions and many more.

First, let us start by looking at a few Scriptures about water baptism:

John 3:5

Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

In this Scripture, we see that we cannot enter the kingdom of God unless we are born of water and the Spirit. There is a very important "and" between water and Spirit. This Scripture seems to suggest that we need to be baptized to be saved but is it really a requirement? We will answer this question in a minute.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Just as the previous Scripture this Scripture makes a similar suggestion. It says that if we believe and is baptized, then we shall be saved. Is this suggestion really the truth? Do we have to be baptized to be saved? We will answer this question in a minute.

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:36-47

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

In this Scripture, we see the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see all the steps that everybody has to take to be truly saved. We see repentance, we see baptism in water, and we see baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is the full Gospel and this full Gospel sets people free. This saves us completely.

Colossians 2:11-13

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

This Scripture emphasizes the fact that when we are baptized, we are dead to sins. This suggests that the old man was buried and we rose in Christ as a new creature. This is the full Gospel of Christ. This is true repentance.

Galatians 3:26-27

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

The previous Scriptures suggested that when we are baptized the Biblical way we die with Christ and we rise with Christ. This Scripture probably refers to our spiritual baptism into Christ and does not refer to water baptism or the baptism into the Holy Spirit. It is a very significant Scripture and needs to be discussed as well.

To understand all these Scriptures, we need to understand the following: Man is a spirit, has a soul and lives in a body. We actually have three "bodies" that look identical and they are exactly the same size yet they are different. Many people do not know this but the three bodies are not saved at the same time and

we will include the Scriptures that prove this. Our spirit is saved immediately when we truly repent. So we are saved immediately after we have decided to repent and to follow Jesus Christ. So if we die at that moment we go to heaven, to paradise where Christ is, even if we were not yet baptized in water or the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

So our spirit is saved through grace and not through works.

However, at that moment, our souls and our bodies are not saved yet. We can even be demon-possessed and oppressed in our souls and in our bodies, after we repented, which means that the demons need to be cast out of our souls and bodies although our spirits are completely saved and in harmony with God. Please take note that soul-possession and spirit-possession are two different things but both require the casting out of demons in a similar way. The bottom line is, after we repented, our souls and our bodies still need to come in line with the spirit. It needs to be set free completely and it needs to be healed completely and it needs to be holy completely. As you can imagine, this is a gradual process. We all know that Paul has written letters to Christians who were seriously involved in sin, although they were saved. They were saved but they lived in sin. Their spirits were in harmony with God but their souls and bodies were acting the same as people who were not saved yet.

1 Corinthians 5:1

It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 11:18

For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

These are all Christians who are still slaves of sins in their body and in their souls although their spirit is set free by the grace of God.

We need to repent and follow Christ through the water and be baptized in the Holy Spirit to be completely free.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Yes, this Scripture does refer to the gift of the Holy Spirit that we all receive when we repent, even before we are baptized in the Spirit. So this is not the Holy Spirit baptism but I do need to mention that the Gift of the Holy Spirit, referring to the baptism in the Holy Spirit does occur many times just after people are baptized in water. Is this just coincidence? Might be but still, in practice, the practical experiences of many people do support this Scripture. I am just mentioning this because I believe that the Scripture should support doctrines and what we observe or experience should not be used as proof of our doctrines. It is just interesting that this happens.

The water baptism is not just a symbolic act. It is a powerful act of obedience that causes changes in our lives. It fast-tracks us in our spiritual journey. We experience instant deliverance or at least a lot of success in our spiritual growth and development when we are baptized the Biblical way. It means we are serious about Christ Jesus and our faith and that is why demonic spirits hate it. They know that they won't be able to do whatever they do when they possess or oppress people. When this happens they know that they will not be able to keep such a person in bondage. There is power in obedience and there is power in water baptism.

Symbolic baptism is not an act of obedience. It is just a religious act and therefore it has no power at all. It is just a waste of time. That is why demons have no problem with such baptisms, even if it is done the Biblical way by full immersion in water. That does not

change anything at all. It is either a religious act by a person who did not truly repent or it is done by a person who does what the church that he is a member of practices. The former does not intend to follow Jesus Christ and the latter is put in a bad position by his church. Some people are baptized merely to please other people or to feel better about themselves or something similar.

Such an act is similar to the sinner's prayer. The sinner's prayer usually precedes a symbolic baptism. These two acts are very similar. It is just religious acts. The sinner's prayer, as popularly known today, has roots in Protestant Christianity. It was first used in the seventeenth century Methodist church and made popular by Charles Finney. The sinner's prayer is not Biblical. It is not found in the Scriptures and it does not have the same meaning or power as true repentance which is done through water baptism.

This is why demons have no problem with both. However, when a person truly repents and decides to be baptized for the remission of their sins, the Biblical way, demons start to shiver and panic because they know that the person that they possess or oppress will be set free.

In Biblical times, people responded to the gospel by being baptized in water and by becoming a follower of Christ. They usually took all these steps in one day. Sometimes they are baptized in the Holy Spirit even before they are baptized in water but, the bottom line is that the three acts are linked together.

We need to repent or we will be judged.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1 Peter 4:17

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

This Scripture says that we are accountable for the sins in our soul and body. Our spirits cannot sin according to 1 John 3:9 and therefore there is no condemnation for us. We are saved and righteous because of that. But our soul is something else. We need to save it by doing something important. It is our job. We read this in James 1:21

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which can save your souls.

So we save our soul and body by laying apart all sins. We see also that the word of God saves our soul if we receive it in meekness. This Scripture was written to Christians. It is not addressed to unsaved people. So the word in this sense has everything to do with renewing their mind and to submit themselves to the word and the will of God.

Galatians 5:19-26

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

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

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

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

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

We save our soul and body by walking in the Spirit. We do it by being led by the Holy Spirit. We do it by crucifying the flesh.

1 Peter 1:9

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Some Scriptures prove that our souls are saved by ourselves. God saved our spirits but we have to save our souls. Let's look at the Scriptures that support this:

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

We save our soul by looking at how we live and if our lives conform to the word (doctrines) of God.

1 Thessalonian 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

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

This Scripture proves that we have to renew our minds so that we can do the perfect will of God.

We need to save our soul and body, as this Scripture suggests. God saves our spirit through grace. We save our souls and bodies through pursuing holiness and renewing our minds and by being obedient.

So the saving of our souls is not through grace but through works. We read that in James 2:24

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Many people do not know of this Scripture in the Bible. It does not contradict Ephesians 2:8-9 which says that we are saved through grace and not by works. Ephesians 2:8-9 refers to our spirit and James 2:24 refers to our soul and body. So if the soul and body are saved by works then it is saved by us. We have to do the job. We need to pursue holiness. We need to crucify the flesh. We need to walk by the Spirit. We need to renew our minds. All these things are not so easy to do.

This is why the water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are required. We need God to help us with this and we need the "tools" that He gave us to help us with this. The baptism in the water helps us to get rid of the old man by crucifying him on the cross and by dying with Christ and rising with Christ and by the washing off of our sins. These things happen in the water.

Many people think that we need to be pure and holy and that we need to deserve the Holy Spirit before we can be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The truth is that the exact opposite is true. We need the Holy Spirit to help us and lead us and teach us and remind us what the word of God says and what Jesus said and what the Father said and exhort us and motivate us and comfort us and intercede for us and reveal the truth to us and inspire us and build us up. We need the Holy Spirit in his fullness. When we go out to be obedient to Christ and to fulfill the great commission we need the Holy Spirit to empower us to preach the gospel of Christ and to heal the sick and to cast out demons and to do miracles and to raise the dead. Without the Holy Spirit, the nine gifts of the Spirit cannot function in our lives.

This is the true gospel of Christ and if we follow these three steps we are immediately on a path of success, victory and freedom. This is real freedom. This is divine dominion. We repent, we follow Jesus Christ through the water, we are baptized in the Spirit and the

moment all this happens, we are free and ready and able to do what God wants us to do. If any of the three steps are missing we are spiritually not at such a good place in our lives as we should be. We are not completely saved when one or more of these things are missing.

We are completely saved when we are obedient in all three of these steps and if we truly pursue holiness. When we do this, our spirit and our soul and our body have all been set free completely. How do we know if a person has been saved and set free completely? We know this when the soul is like the spirit and when the body is like the spirit. This is when the body is completely healed. No more sicknesses and diseases are evident in such a person's life. We know it when the soul is completely submitted to God and his word and his will. This means that there is no more struggle and wrestling and fighting and bad emotions and bad attitudes. The soul has completely submitted himself to the Holy Spirit and allows the fruit of the Spirit to flow through him continuously.

So most of us are still in the process of saving our souls and our body. Some are very successful with this and others not. Some are more obedient and others not. Just think of a person who repented fifty years ago but who was never baptized for the remission of his sins and who was never baptized in the Holy Spirit. How successfully do you think he is in this area. Did such a person save his soul and his body completely? No, he did not because it is impossible to do these things without the help of God and without making use of the "tools" that He gave us.

Such a person probably experienced quite a lot of turmoil and hardships and problems in his life. Such a person never could reign as a king in the kingdom of God. Such a person experienced quite a mediocre life in Christ. He or she is like the nation of Israel who could only conquer about ten percent of the promised land. Such a person failed to claim his or her inheritance. They are poor in spirit and they lack a lot. They are not spiritually developed like they should have been.

So what happens if our soul is not saved and what are the consequences thereof? It means that you will go to heaven but that you will suffer on earth. You will experience bad circumstances and you will become sick and you will lose and you will suffer defeats. You will not be completely free. You will still be in bondage regarding certain aspects of your life. You will act in ways that you do not want to and you will still be a slave to specific sins and bad behavior and bad emotions. So the water baptism does save us. It does set us free.

There is another consequence which is just as serious, we will not be able to be the instrument of excellence in the hands of God that we are supposed to be. We will not be able to fulfill the great commission as we are supposed to. We will not be able to be used by God as He and we desire. We will fall short.

To come back to the Biblical way of water baptism, if we are not baptized for the remission of sins, we will always struggle to live in freedom. We need to lay down the old man and we need to die with Christ by sacrificing the old man so that we can rise with Christ as a new creature. We cannot carry the old man on our backs. The water baptism is the first step to follow Jesus and at that moment, we are disciples. Not before that. Before we go through the water we are just saved and this statement refers to our spirit. However, when we are baptized, at that moment we become a follower of Jesus Christ.

To be sprinkled with water as a baby is a dead and religious act. To be baptized by full immersion for any other reason other than what I explained in this chapter, it is a dead and religious act. If you have not been baptized the right way then you will have to be baptized again. However, when you do, make sure you go to the right person who will do it the right way, preferably go to a person who has the power of the Holy Spirit in his life so that he or she can set you free.

So the baptism in water according to the Bible is a very powerful thing. It delivers us from bondage. It delivers us from sin. It gives us a new life in Christ. It gives us the power to pursue holiness

successfully so that we will never be slaves of sin anymore. It empowers us to get rid of sins in our lives. Together with the baptism in the Holy Spirit, it changes our lives completely. The best thing that we can do is to take all these steps as soon as we can.

Cornelius and his whole household took all these steps in one day as we can see in Acts 10:42-48

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

The eunuch did not waste any time to be baptized when Philip preached the gospel to him as we can see in Acts 8:35-36. He decided to follow Jesus Christ through the water and he became a disciple immediately.

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

Like the eunuch, people should be unsaved when they stand in the water. Like him, they have decided a few minutes ago that they want to follow Jesus Christ. Standing in that water they are ready to follow him. He is not yet in their heart. They are not yet saved but they are ready to follow Christ.

So when Philip baptized the eunuch, amazing things literally happened to him in the spiritual realm. His dead spirit was laid down and literally removed from him. He received a new spirit which is a new creature. This is why Paul said that the wrong things that he did in the past were not done by him but by the old man. He is not guilty of any of those things. He became a new creation that never sinned. This is exactly what 1 John 3 declares. The new man never sinned and cannot sin. The old man sinned and our soul and bodies can still sin.

When the eunuch went under the water, he died with Christ and when he came up again he rose with Christ. At that moment his sins were washed away. He died a sinful man who was in bondage and he rose a new creation, saved and free and alive in Christ Jesus.

The church has decided to separate salvation from this wonderful experience in Christ. People destroyed this wonderful experience and they made it a symbolic act in many ways. By doing so they removed the power of the water baptism. The water baptism was replaced by the sinner's prayer and by all sorts of different symbolic baptisms.

Let's briefly discuss the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We are not going to deal with this aspect extensively but I do want to discuss the most important aspects of this wonderful experience with God.

God knew that mankind would not be able to fulfill the great commission in their own power. Whatever man possesses and whatever they use to make such an attempt is just a waste of time. We cannot save people. We cannot set people free. We cannot deliver people. We need God to do that through us. That is why we need the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We need power. The great commission is nothing else but preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ

in word and power. We cannot even preach the word without the help of the Holy Spirit. We need divine power to set people free. We need divine power to heal the sick and to raise the dead and to cast out demons. Without the Holy Spirit, we just cannot do that.

Jesus paid the price for this world. He has set us free on that cross. He did not only pay for sin, He also paid for the penalty of sin. Because of sin, we are spiritually dead. Because of sin, we are in bondage. Because of sin, we are blind. Because of sin, we are sick. Because of sin, we go to hell. So the sins of man have devastating consequences and effects in and on their lives. Jesus did not only carry our sins, but He also carried the penalty of sin. Those are all the bad things that I have just mentioned.

This means that healing and restoration are in the atonement. That is why Jesus did two things when He walked this earth. He forgave people for their sins and he restored people's lives. He healed the sick, He cast out demons and He delivered people. No wonder that He gave us the same job to do. He said, go, preach the gospel, make disciples, heal the sick, cast out demons and raise the dead. This is what we need to do. This is the great commission. However, this is not easy. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to that.

It is for this reason that Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they have received the power from on high.

Luke 24:49

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:4,5,8

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but "wait for the promise of the Father, which," saith he, "ye have heard of me."

5 "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

Remember, they all have received the Holy Spirit already before this happened.

It happened the first time that Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples after his resurrection.

John 20:19-22

19 *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you."*

20 *And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.*

21 *Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*

22 *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."*

This experience was similar to what every believer ever experienced the moment that they experience the rebirth. This was the beginning of the rebirth. At that moment, when they received the Holy Spirit they were born of the Holy Spirit. That is when they became new creations. However, they lacked something. The power of the Holy Spirit. They received that on the day of Pentecost as is written in Acts 2:1-4

1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

3 *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And so this wonderful experience repeated itself right through the New Testament and even today. It usually happens when the disciples of God lay their hands on people although it can happen in other ways as well.

Lets' discuss an incident that happened after the day of Pentecost:

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

In this Scripture, we see a few very interesting things. These people were Christians and they were saved but they were not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit. So Paul laid his hand on them and He prayed for them and then they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. They immediately spoke in tongues.

This is proof that we all receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved but we are not baptized in the Holy Spirit until somebody prays for us by the laying on of hands. The evidence that we are baptized in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Of course, there are other

manifestations of the Holy Spirit that are also evidence that we are baptized in the Spirit but there is one specific one that we all have, the speaking in tongues as a prayer language. The other tongues and the rest of the gifts of the Spirit manifest randomly in the lives of people and cannot be forced. The Holy Spirit manifests through his gifts and we do not have control over the gifts. The prayer language, the praying in tongues is something that we do have control over, although we do not understand it. This is the general or universal evidence of the fact that we are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit and any child of God attempting to fulfill the great commission without the Holy Spirit is setting himself up for failure. This is the reason why I appeal to church leaders to accept or at least tolerate this Christian experience. It will change people's lives and it will empower people to fulfill the great commission the way that Christ intended.

About the writer

ASR Martins is a Christian author. He wrote several books including **“The Free Authentic Christian Dreams and Visions Symbols Dictionary”**. He interprets Dreams and Visions and he also manages an online **“Dreams and Visions Symbols Interpretation Course”**. He stays with his wife Marinda and their boys, Ewaldt and Rheeder, in Klerksdorp, South Africa. They also have a daughter Alisia. They see themselves as spiritual facilitators by providing support, resources and encouragement to everybody who wants to be pioneers in the hand of God.

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