

***Knowing
God
Personally***

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Knowing God Personally

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This book is dedicated to:

My Lord Jesus Christ

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Knowing God Personally

Does God exist? Is God real or merely some fable or myth created in the minds of weak individuals? Or is God simply some concoction of 2000 year-old historic documents that make for great stories on Sunday mornings? How about you? What do you think? Is God real or merely a fable, story, or myth?

At some point in everyone's life we find ourselves looking up at the stars at night wondering where this earth came from and how we all got here. We contemplate our purpose in life. We wonder if we are a product of freak chance or a product of divine design. We ponder in ourselves if God truly exists. And if He does exist, what is He like? Is there any way to really know for sure?

My friend, if you have ever wondered or asked any of these questions you are not alone. Like everyone else, I thought about these questions myself as I was growing up but never really knew where to find the answer. And all the people that I asked did not seem to know much either. Some

pointed to the church, while most others pointed to science, or theories or other religions, which they believed and embraced.

Now it is an established fact, that we all believe something. But how do we know if what we believe is really the truth or not? After all, there are a lot of religions in the world today as well as a many different theories. How do we know if the Muslims are right, or the Buddhists, or the Hindus, or the Christians, or the Evolutionists? Fate and chance are not even reasonable possibilities, so either science has the answer, or there has to be a divine answer.

What if we think that we are right but, in truth, we are wrong? Wouldn't that be a disaster? But can we face the truth no matter what it may turn out to be? Personally, I cannot think of anything worse than being deceived. But there has to be an answer that will hold up to scrutiny and the most demanding tests. There has to be an answer that is correct. I know that there are many people in the world today that would just as soon bury their heads in the sand and ignore this issue. But this type of mindset is self-destructive and will never bring anyone to the knowledge of the truth.

Now I personally was never interested in studying world religions and in my own mind, I simply clumped them all together as one great religion with many forms. I was not looking for God but through a series of events that happened in my life, I discovered that, in truth, God was looking for me. When I personally had my first encounter with God it quickly cleared up most of the confusion. And I guarantee that by virtue of the fact that you are reading this book, God is endeavoring to embrace you, as He did me.

Now, if you will grant me the opportunity to share a few things with you I will tell you how I first encountered God. I will also be glad to explain how we can truly determine, the one true God, apart from all the other false gods, religions and theories.

After all, if God truly wants to have a personal relationship with us, then it stands to reason that He has a certain obligation to reveal Himself to us in a way that we can relate to Him. Otherwise, how could we communicate with Him? How could we ever possibly come to know Him in a tangible way?

In the end, we all believe something. But I have come to personally know Someone. Now I am not talking about a bunch of religious hoopla here. If that is all you think I am taking about then you have missed the boat already. I am not talking about religion or ritual; rather, I am talking about really knowing God in a personal way. If you knew that you could have a personal relationship with God wouldn't you want to know Him?

My hope is that you are an open-minded individual. However, being open minded does not require you to check your brain at the door. Rather, it means that you are a seeker of the truth and open to learning things that you have not yet known or experienced. Closed-minded people, on the other hand, have made up their minds and there is nothing that anyone can say that would persuade them – even if they were wrong. But if you are an open-minded seeker of truth, then I guarantee that you are not far away from truly having a tangible life-changing encounter with God yourself.

Now I could start out by telling you all about the Bible and what it has to say about knowing God; but in truth, I met God long before I ever really knew anything about the Bible. So I would like to share with you how I came to know God

personally. Please keep in mind that my initial experiences with God may be quite different from what you may experience. But at the same time I must say that I have talked with thousands of people over the years that have had many similar experiences to my own.

Nevertheless, I am persuaded that knowing how someone else came to know God can greatly help when getting to know God for yourself. But in the end, I did come to know God, and I know that He desires to know you in a dynamic and personal way. I tell you the truth when I say, “You have not met anyone until you have personally met Almighty God Himself.” Once you get a true perspective of God and see His heart, His character, and His unfailing love and honor you will never be the same.

How I Came to Know God

As I tell you about how I came to know God, you will find that I had quite an experience. Most likely, much different than anything that you may have heard before. But I believe that God, in His great wisdom, knew that someday I would write this book, and He planned ahead so that I would have something to share with you. Nevertheless, it is the end result that is important: knowing God personally. So keep in mind that everything I am about to share is a true account of my own experience.

Like many of you, I was not brought up in a Christian home although my mother was Catholic. I remember when I was very young we went to church as a family a few times until my father stopped going. From about the age of five to nine I was shuffled off to a local Baptist church down the street. I did learn a few things about some of the Bible stories but nothing ever really stuck. For the most part, my parents did not have any religious convictions, they only sent us to this church on

Sunday mornings to get rid of us and have some free time for themselves.

By age nine I was introduced to pornography and by age twelve I was using marijuana. Then my parent's divorced and I was forced to leave California and all my friends when my mother took me and my younger sister and moved to Minnesota where she had grown up. Personally, I hated being uprooted and having to leave all my friends. And this only added to the tension between my mother and myself at a difficult time in both our lives.

While living in Minnesota my mother and I constantly fought and were at each other's throats. I was at the age where I was testing my mother to see how far I could go. My little sister and I were basically latchkey kids and we fought like cats and dogs. I was overweight, very upset, very self-willed, plus I had a poor self-image. I felt my father had all but abandoned me to enjoy his own life. But by age fifteen I managed to escape Minnesota when my parents agreed to let me return to California to live with my father.

But when I returned to California things were not the same. My father was concerned that I would

get into trouble so he put me in a private Christian school. Not because he was a Christian or shared their values but because he wanted to keep me out of trouble. However, I got kicked out of that school a couple of months later when I was caught smoking marijuana with a girl.

My father was very distressed with my drug use and checked me in to a rehab center for drug addicts. But I did not really want to quit so I told the doctors what they wanted to hear. Meanwhile, I was planning my next party and thinking about smoking a big joint when I got out.

After I was released I talked my father into letting me go to the local public high school where my friends attended. But I had been gone too long. My old friendships, for the most part, were not the same. Meanwhile, I tried to con my family into thinking that I was staying out of trouble by going to church with my grandmother a few times. The people were very nice but I was too rebellious to hear much of anything that was said. I didn't know God and I thought church was strange at best. But later I found that I was the stranger.

Nevertheless, after I was released from the rehab center I went right back to smoking pot. And about

a month later, I was kicked out of Yucaipa High School for possession of narcotics. When my father found out all hell broke loose. I could not live with my mother or my father, so I decided that running away from home was the only solution. So I came up with an escape plan.

At the time I was working for my father making deliveries all over Southern California. One day while out making a delivery I went to the beach near a marina where my father kept his boat. I usually went there with my father on weekends. Therefore, I had a key to the docks and showers at the marina. But that day, across the street I saw a VW bus for sale for only \$500. I thought, "This is it!" I could buy this van, sleep in it and take showers at the marina.

That night when I got home, I made arrangements to buy the van. Early the next morning I left home setting out on a journey that ultimately changed the course of my life forever. At the time I was only sixteen years old.

I had only packed a few things in a backpack and set out on my ten-speed bike. I had planned to ride my bike from Calimesa, California to Sunset Beach, California, about 100 miles. After leaving,

I biked about 20 miles downhill and my rear end was so sore I felt like I could not pedal that bike one more mile. So I decided to try hitchhiking the rest of the way.

I went to a nearby freeway onramp and put out my thumb. Before long a big white van pulled over. The man was nice and helped me throw my bike in the back and I jumped inside. It only took a minute for the man to ask me why I was hitchhiking with a bicycle. I told him that I was running away from home. After listening to my story, the man started to talk to me about God and how He could help me out. The man talked for the rest of the ride and he talked and talked. I mean, the man did not stop talking about God and Jesus and the Bible. I could tell he really believed it with conviction but, at the time, I simply thought that he had spent a little too much time at church. So I shrugged off what he said. Eventually, he dropped me off in Riverside, California with another 20 miles behind me.

Since I was only halfway to my destination, I found another freeway onramp and put out my thumb again. Surprisingly, another guy in a different van pulled over to pick me up. This man was also very nice and he helped me throw my bike in the back and I jumped inside. This man

was also quite curious as to why I was hitchhiking with a bicycle. So I also told him that I was running away from home.

Then this man, like the other, proceeded to talk to me about God and how He could help me if I would look to Him. And like the other man he did not stop talking to me about God, Jesus and the Bible for the rest of the ride. In fact, he must have talked twice as much as the first guy. He ultimately dropped me off across the street from Disneyland in Anaheim, California. I remember looking back across the parking lot thinking to myself, “These Christians seem to be everywhere! Every time I turn around I seem to run into one.”

After resting my backside awhile I was able to ride my bike the remaining twenty miles. But now I was free, so I thought. I was free to smoke pot and do whatever else I wanted to do. I didn't have to listen to my father or my mother anymore. I was free!

At the time I knew a man that lived on a boat in the marina. And this guy got me some of the best marijuana I had ever smoked. One time we were on his boat smoking some when I noticed my father working on his boat across from us. I

panicked, so my friend let me out of the front boat hatch and I scurried away unseen.

After a few days, I realized that I would need more money than I took with me. I asked my friend how he made money. He told me that he worked on boats and did odd jobs around the marina. I asked him how he got work. He told me, “Just tell people you do all kinds of things.” So I decided to canvas neighborhoods near the marina to see if anyone would like to have their car cleaned and detailed. I quickly found that I had a good thing going. I was making \$40 per car and some days I was able to do two or three cars. This was very good money at the time, especially for a sixteen-year-old in 1985.

One day after cleaning several cars I decided to go down to the beach and look at the scenery. My idea of scenery at the time was young women in bikinis. After all, I was a hot-blooded teenager. Nevertheless, that day at the beach I saw a young girl about my age and she was very beautiful. But beyond her beauty I could see that something about her glowed, literally. I could see this faint light glowing around her head as she walked down the beach toward me. I did not know what it was but I thought to myself, “I’ve got to get her into my van.” So I proceeded to “make a move.”

I introduced myself and began to make some small talk. After we had talked awhile I attempted to try to get a little closer. But as I did she told me that she did not do things like that because she was a Christian. I thought to myself, “Not another one!” Then she began to talk to me about God. I thought, “I’ll just let her get this off her chest then I’ll try again.”

So we both sat down on the curb in front of my van and she talked to me about God for hours. Finally, I realized that I was getting nowhere fast. She then asked me if I wanted to know God personally. I told her, “No thanks!” Then I explained to her how I was making great money and smoking some of the best marijuana I had ever had. I told her that I did not want to give up all that I had to serve some Jesus that I didn’t even know. So we parted ways and I never saw her again.

However, not many days later I paid off my van and decided to go back to see a few of my friends and family. But I never went back to live with my father again. Upon my return, my friends and I threw a big party then a day later my van broke down and needed repair. It was still running but nearly dead. Now I had no job or source of income

in town because I had left the beach. And I had used up all my money and couldn't repair my van. I was quite dejected. I went to a party at my sister's house that night and we smoked the rest of my pot. Now I was really down and out. I did not know what tomorrow would bring but it did not look promising.

I decided to go to my grandmother's house to find a shoulder to cry on and maybe get a handout. I told my grandmother and her husband about all of my problems. She asked me if I would like for them to pray for me. I thought to myself, "It couldn't hurt" but I also thought "they could pray for me on their time" because I was not interested. So I started to leave and when I was getting into my van, my grandmother asked me if I would like to receive Jesus as my Lord. I thought to myself, "what have I got to lose, it couldn't hurt."

So I went back inside the house with them, kneeled down to pray on their living room floor. But then I thought about my mother being a "Catholic" and I quickly thought, "That's definitely not for me." But then I thought about my father, who was pretty much anti-God and anti-Bible. I thought to myself "What if he is wrong about all this Bible stuff? Though he was highly opinionated, if asked, I did

not believe that he had really done a thorough and honest evaluation on the subject.” I love my father but I could not see myself following him if he decided to walk off the end of a cliff.

I thought to myself “The only way I am going to know if there is any truth to this Bible stuff and Jesus is to check it out for myself.” Then I decided “I will give this Christianity stuff six months and check it out thoroughly because I think it is the only way I will ever be able to get an honest evaluation for myself!”

So I prayed with my grandparents and asked Jesus to be my Lord. And I asked Him to save me and help me that night. I did not know what would happen next or what to expect. I just knew that I needed a lot of help!

When I got up off that living room floor intuitively I knew that something had happened to me but I did not know exactly what, nor could I explain it. I didn't see any fireworks, I didn't hear any angels singing or harps playing, but I knew that something had happened inside me. It was as if someone had rearranged the furniture inside of me. This only strengthened my resolve to figure out for myself exactly what had happened to me. So I

started going to church with my grandparents determined to discover and understand what had happened and what this Christianity stuff was really all about.

You must understand that I was almost completely ignorant about God, the Bible and Christianity. I knew very little except that my grandparents told me that I had been *born again*. So I continued going to church with them for about four weeks with nothing unusual to report.

But the next time I went to church everything changed! I was sitting near the back of the church while my grandparents sat near the front. At some point in the service after singing praise and worship songs, the whole congregation started to sing and worship God in what they called *tongues*. This happened in most all the services. To that point in time, I had not heard any teaching about tongues from my grandparents or the pastor. It seemed very strange to me and with my lack of understanding I actually thought they were doing some sort of chanting. So I just listened to the congregation and the person on my left singing in some strange language. I finally got up the nerve and thought I would chime in with everybody and give it a try. So I started chanting too, not really

understanding at all what I was doing. But I thought it was the thing to do, so I started doing it.

It was just a few moments after I began to worship the Lord in this strange new way that, all of a sudden, God showed up! And I mean showed up! I felt something like a wave of electric love flow right over and through my entire body. I opened my eyes and looked around to see what it was but I saw nothing unusual but the guy standing next to me.

I stood in utter wonder and amazement. Not knowing what to think, I asked the guy standing on my left, “Did you feel that? What was that?” He just looked at me like a cow at a new gate. The church continued worshipping so I chimed back in and about a minute later it happened again. I quickly realized that I had just encountered the presence of the Living God! I had never in all my life encountered or experienced anything even close to what I began to experience that day. I was completely awestruck and amazed!

I had truly met the Lord God Almighty. He really was a living loving person with power like nothing I had ever experienced before. I came to realize that I had experienced what it was like to be in His

presence. He really was who He claimed to be in the Bible. I had been like a blind man that was just given sight. That day my eyes were opened to the fact that God truly was alive. It was almost as if He had walked up to me, shook my hand and said, “Hello, I AM God.” When His presence came upon me it was that real and tangible. His presence was more real and powerful than anything I had ever experienced before that day. And now it has been over thirty years and I am still enjoying and experiencing His presence on a daily basis.

The day I had first received Christ as my Lord and Savior, the heavens did not open and I did not hear any trumpets sound nor did I have any physical manifestation of His presence but I knew something had happened to me. However, it was only as I continued to press in to know God that I ultimately encountered Him personally. I was seeking for God with my whole heart even though I did things that seemed quite strange to me at the time, things I did not fully understand.

Nevertheless, I still pressed in desiring to know Him. And in the end I believe it was God’s grace and a hungry, persistent heart that opened heavens reality to me.

After this encounter, there was not a person on this planet that will ever be able to convince me that God is a myth, fable or concoction of some weak-minded individual trying to make up something to satisfy some deep desire or need. I had problems but I am not weak-minded or delusional. And what I had experienced was no figment of my imagination. What I experienced was as real as real gets. I had passed from death to life. I had met the God of the Bible, the God who said He loved me and died on the cross for all the sins I had committed against Him. And that day I discovered He was honorable and true to His word, He was only waiting for me to make the call and get into a position where He could bless me.

I was so taken by what had happened to me that I wanted to tell everyone that I met and then some. After all, this was the best-kept secret I had ever found! It was almost too good to be true good news. So why wouldn't I want to tell others about it? Even you, reading this book now.

After this encounter, I spent nearly every night praying, praising and worshipping God by myself for about two months. The more I pressed in to fellowship with God, the more I experienced greater and greater manifestations of His presence.

He also began to speak to me in surprising new ways I had never known before. I felt like I had just discovered the biggest brilliant cut diamond of all time and I was enjoying looking at all its facets.

It was during this time that I truly came to know God personally. At this point, He became more than just God, He became my heavenly Father. In all honesty, that investment of my time is still affecting my life to this day, more than thirty years later.

When I discovered that God was the real deal, I just couldn't get enough of Him! I was hungry, hungry, hungry! Hungry for His unconditional love, acceptance and fellowship that He offered so freely to me. And I'm still hungry today and enjoying my relationship with Him more than ever, though it has grown to new levels over the years. I whole-heartedly believe that if I had not pressed in to find God, searching for Him with all my heart, even being willing to accept things that I did not fully understand, I may never have met Him in the way that I did. I pressed beyond simply asking Him to come into my heart, I pressed until I got a breakthrough because I wanted to know the truth.

I think many people never make it this far with God or experience the things that I have experienced because they never press in enough to seek God with all their heart. Instead they try and figure out everything in their head. But you can't approach Him that way. Besides if you don't truly know God or His ways yet, then you may not know what to look for when He shows up. Just stay in faith and know that He will keep His Word as stated in the Bible. Be willing to stand forever and it won't take long.

Do yourself a favor and don't put God in a box or try to mold Him into an image for your mind. And don't expect God to dance to your song. If you want to experience an encounter with God then be willing to humble yourself and dance to His song. Put all your doubts, questions, and preconceived religious ideas on the altar until He clears up any questions you may have. Don't think you've got it all figured out and you know it all just because you've had some exposure to the church or religion or you think you tried it before. You may know just enough to be a danger to yourself, spiritually speaking.

You have to come to a place of abandonment. Abandon yourself to the Lord and seek Him with a

truly repentant heart until He reveals Himself. He may simply be waiting to see if you truly mean business or not, before He pulls back the veil. So take my advice, seek the Lord with all your heart and don't give up even if He doesn't show up on your schedule. Simply be faithful to Him and persevere anyway. Realize that God stands for truth, and Jesus said in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."

Several close relatives asked me, "So why does God speak to you, what makes you so special?" The truth be known, if I am special it is only because God has blessed me. But in Acts 10:34 the Bible emphatically tells us that God is no respecter of persons. The relatives that asked me these questions did not have their heart in the right place towards God and they were not seeking Him. They thought God owed them a visit but they never humbly invited Him. If they were truly seeking God they would have been willing to hear what I was trying to tell them with an open heart. But instead they simply made excuses for themselves and pointed their finger at me rather than take the time to discover what I'm sharing with you today. At least I took the time to go check it out for myself and I hope you will too.

Anyone can have a relationship with God. It's easy but it starts with your heart attitude and being open and teachable. In fact, God has invited all to come, taste and see that He is good Psalm 34:8. But we must not approach Him on our terms. We should not expect God to walk in and dance to our song. So seek God's heart and you'll find Him.

Like I had said previously, I began to seek God the night that I had asked Jesus into my heart, but in truth, God was seeking me long before I ever sought Him. He even sent three different people to speak to me personally. They knew God, I did not. But God sent them to me to help point the way.

Now space would not allow for me to share with you all that I have personally experienced and witnessed in the last thirty plus years as a result of knowing Jesus as my Lord and Savior. But to name a few things:

About two months after I was born again I had a supernatural vision from God and He called me into the ministry. About four months later, I had a very unique experience one day when God spoke to me in a voice that sounded like thunder. His thundering voice resonated throughout my entire being, including my body. Without question every

part of me heard Him! It is safe to say, I have never forgotten what He said to me that day.

I have even had God speak to me about future events in my life more times than I can remember. My wife has also witnessed this with me many times since we have been married and we have both seen God's word come to pass exactly as He said it would. It is funny, because many times in the past when I was a young Christian and God spoke to me about the future, I could not see how it could possibly come to pass until after it actually happened. Many times what He said to me did not seem possible in my mind. But I discovered in the beginning and the end, Father knows best!

I have seen miraculous answers to my prayers more times than I can count. God has also healed me miraculously many times even from epileptic seizures and medication I took for over twenty years.

I may not have gone into all the details of these encounters as time and space will not permit me to tell all the other wonderful things that God has done personally in my life. But I guarantee that they have all truly happened. And each encounter and answered prayer has only given me a stronger

resolve to continue to walk with Him and tell others too.

So I encourage you to be willing to believe in the God who split time in half through His Son, Jesus. I stand as a witness and my testimony is true. Jesus truly is alive and well, and He is the Son of the living God. God's greatest desire is for you to become part of His family. He is not interested in religion anymore than you are. Religion is, and always was, man's ideas and ways of trying to reach out to God. But God is interested in having a personal relationship with you and that is why he sent Jesus. Jesus is the only one that could bridge the gap that sin created between God and mankind. Jesus came to die in your place so you could live in a place with him. And all I can tell you is that He is worth pursuing no matter the cost.

Knowing God by the Book

Now that you have read my testimony, I would like to show you what the Bible has to say about knowing God and man's relationship with God. So we are going to start at the beginning.

The Bible tells us in the book of Genesis about Adam and Eve and how God had put them in the Garden of Eden. God created man because He desired fellowship and a family to love. God told Adam and Eve to enjoy their garden home and He only gave them a single command.

GENESIS 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'"

You may already know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God. But what you may not know is that in doing so, they lost God's blessing and a curse of their own doing came upon them and all their children all the way down to you and me. As a

result we have all been conceived in sin and born in iniquity by virtue of this curse. You may not have been alive when this happened but God declares it true. You weren't alive when George Washington was the president of the United States or when Caesar was Emperor of Rome but history declares it so and most people simply accept it.

Understanding this curse is important because with this curse came death to man's spirit. And as a result of spiritual death, ultimately came physical death. Spiritual death also left man in a depraved state, cut off from the presence of God and no longer able to control the appetites and the lusts of his flesh. The man that God had made in His own image had rebelled against Him. But God, out of his love and compassion, would not leave man in this helpless state. So God began to work a plan to redeem and return man back to his original state and place of fellowship with Himself.

In the process of time, God made a covenant with a man named Abram (later known as Abraham) and ultimately gave the Law and the Ten Commandments to his descendants. God did this for the purpose of pointing out and exposing sin and the sin nature lodged in man's spirit. The Ten Commandments and the Law did not have the

power to redeem man but were given to educate man about God's ways and to point out and expose sin and the corruption and death that sin brings.

In fact, once you have broken any of God's Laws, or Commandments, you stand guilty in the high court of heaven. That means if you have ever stolen anything, or ever lied, or committed adultery, or broken any of God's Laws, then God's own Laws stand as a witness against you, and will ultimately bring His judgement upon you. God's word tells us in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." Even though God's Laws and Commandments are good and point out sin, they cannot by themselves redeem us nor can they make us right with God. Neither do they have the power to dislodge the death grip of sin in man's spirit.

ROMANS 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

At this point, you may be thinking, "I am a good person," "If God is so good and loving why would he punish me?" This is a very good question indeed, but the answer lies in the fact that God, though good, merciful and loving is still the Judge of all the earth. And as a righteous judge, God is

obligated by virtue of His own Words and Laws to pronounce judgment on all those who break them.

Let me explain it to you another way. Say you got a ticket for speeding and you had to go before a local judge. Do you think the judge is going to dismiss your ticket just because you tell him that you are a good person? You will quickly find out that the judge has an obligation to uphold the law. Now you may be a good person in your own eyes but your definition of good and God's definition of good are two different things. In fact, the Bible teaches us that there are none that are good but God alone (Matthew 19:17).

Now we have discovered that all men have spiritual death lodged in them. As a result, we have all sinned against God and this prevents man from being justified before God. But God had a plan to redeem man from the slavery of sin and in the fullness of time His plan culminated when God sent His own Son, Jesus, to the earth.

Now you may be thinking "If God is all powerful then why doesn't he just wave his hand and fix everything?" Well, the truth is that He cannot do that without violating His own word and He will never do that. This is one thing about God you

need to understand. He always submits Himself to His own word and laws. That means He will not break His word for you or me or anybody else, including Himself. This is important to understand because in the book of Genesis we find that God gave the dominion and control of this earth to mankind, Adam being the head. That means according to God's word that no one could *legally* have authority in this earth unless they were human.

Look at the word "human" it comes from two words. The word "humis," which means dirt and the word "man," which speaks of the spirit residing in the dirt body. Therefore, any spirit that does not have a body in the earth is *illegal*. Hence God being a spirit needed to have a body to be legal in the earth according to His own word. This is the same reason that people must leave earth when their body dies, they are no longer legal.

Now, this is also the reason that Jesus was sent to the earth and born of a virgin. God was able to give Himself an uncorrupted body through a virgin, while at the same time avoiding the cursed bloodline handed down through the seed of the man. God was able to do this because a woman never shares her blood with her baby. In fact, a

mother and a baby can have two completely different blood types. Understand that the man carries the seed where the life resides, while the woman only adds DNA and incubates the seed.

This is important to understand because it allowed Jesus to be born in purity, free from the spiritual death that is common to all men and, at the same time, this allowed Jesus to remain spiritually alive and connected to God. This is what sets Jesus apart from Buddha, Mohammed and all other great religious leaders that were born in sin and spiritual death which is common to all men.

MATTHEW 15:14

14 "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Not only are Buddha, Mohammed and all other great religious leaders, outside of the Bible; blind to Almighty God and His ways but they were also spiritually dead and cut off from Him and His ways, as well. A ditch is the only place these religious leaders will ever be able to lead you.

Jesus was born free from the death grip of sin, which is common to all men. Jesus had the pure

blood of God running through His veins just like Adam did in the beginning. Why is this important to understand? Because Jesus ultimately sacrificed His sin free blood for you and me. When Jesus died on Calvary's cross, and his pure sinless blood was shed, the curse of the whole Law came upon him.

GALATIANS 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written [in the Law], "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")

When the Apostle Paul wrote that verse, he was quoting Deuteronomy 21:23. This is also the very reason Jesus cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). God's presence left Jesus as it did Adam, when this curse came upon Him. Hopefully, you can now understand why Jesus had to die spiritually and physically like Adam so that Jesus could redeem Adams posterity spiritually and physically.

ISAIAH 53:5, 6, 10, 11

5 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 ...and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

10 ...His soul was made an offering for sin...

11 ...My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

Jesus did not die for anything He personally did wrong but He died like a sacrificial lamb for your sins and mine to satisfy God's judgement against you and me.

The good news is that anyone who accepts the fact that Jesus paid the price for their sins can receive a full pardon from God and the gift of salvation, which is the eternal life of God's presence coming into your spirit. Instead of having death lodged in your spirit you can have the life of God dwelling in your spirit as Adam had in the beginning. And you can come to know God in a personal way. This is why Jesus said:

JOHN 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus was not being arrogant when He made this statement. He knew that He was the Lamb of God. He knew that He was the only man that had the

pure blood required to make an acceptable sacrifice for the penalty of our sin.

Eternal life is a gift and cannot be earned by any amount of good works. Our own goodness is nothing but filthy rags by God's standard. God desires to be reconciled to all men and has given all men a right to choose to be reconciled to Him. Anyone who hears this message of reconciliation (The Gospel) and understands it but chooses not to accept His free gift (for whatever reason) will be left in a state of spiritual death for all eternity – cut off from the presence of God – and will have to face the judgement of God without Jesus as an advocate, resulting in what is known as the second death.

Yes, it is true, good people can go to hell if they choose not to accept the ONLY way of salvation provided by God. We must all understand that God is still God, despite what we may think or believe. If anyone is unwilling to submit himself to God and His word in this life, then God by virtue of His word must consider him a rebel and a threat to His family and His kingdom. He is obligated to pronounce judgement upon him and lock him up in a spiritual jail, otherwise known as hell, then

ultimately cast him into the Lake of Fire, which is an eternal spiritual penitentiary with no exits!

If you have not already done this, take a moment and repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and receive God's free gift of salvation. Don't miss out on the best gift you will ever receive, the gift of life and fellowship with Jesus, the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit too!

ROMANS 10:9-11

9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Understand that salvation is not just reciting a prayer but salvation is opening your heart to Jesus and making Him Lord of your life.

Now pray: "Jesus forgive me for my sins. I turn from my sins and I receive you, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior. I ask you to come into my heart and take control of my life. I believe you took my

place and died for me on the cross and I believe that God raised you from the dead. I thank you for saving me and revealing yourself to me in a personal and intimate way. In Jesus name, amen.”

Now we encourage you to contact this ministry. We want to help you get started in the right direction with your new life in Christ.

A Call and Plea to Glory

Below you will find a special poetic word. The Lord spoke this word through me, which my wife recorded. Later the Lord instructed me to include it in this book. Please note that these are His words! I did not write this prophetic poem. I have no poetic skills but the Lord can speak in different ways through individuals whom He chooses. And as you will see, the Lord certainly is a poet.

In Me there's a place to see
Full of grace and great glory
I'm calling out to as many as will
For the Spirit of the Lord says, Come!

Come and drink of Me
Drink of My grace
And My glory

Drink freely
And drink to your fill
And then be still
And know that I AM God, the Holy One
Who seeks to be your Only One

For those that would drink of Me
Will enjoy life abundantly
But those that drink from the bottle
Will be shallow and fallow
They will not know My peace or rest

But those who would drink of My Spirit
Will experience true life
For no bottle of spirits
Can give you the peace and joy
That is found in Me only!

So I call and I plea
Open up your heart to Me

Don't be wise
In your own eyes
Or think that you see
All that life was meant to be

Until you come to Me
You cannot see
But your blindness
Has overtaken thee

What does it mean
To be blind?
It means you cannot see

The true sunshine
The shine of the Son
The Holy One

For in Me is true life and peace
In Me is true life
And no strife
Peace and joy forevermore
Laid up for you in store

Peace and grace be unto you
And to all that read this letter
For in it you will find
Victory, peace and release

For there is no condemnation
To those that are in Christ
Who walk after the Spirit
And not the flesh

Victory and peace is at your command
But don't expect to stand
Unless you take My right hand

I give honor and glory
To those who look to Me
But the proud in heart
Have nothing but folly

They fall and they hide
But they know deep down inside
That it was their will
That caused their destruction
And was a detriment to their function

If you will humble yourself
And receive My words
And receive Me into your heart
And turn over the reins to Me

You'll begin to see
That I can steer
And take you near
To the place of victory

For thus says the Lord
Don't be a stubborn mule
But be a beautiful stallion
Of my grace

For stubbornness
Is in the heart of a mule
But grace and power
Did I put into the heart of a horse
But I will not force you

To walk in My ways
But I lay them out before you

So you can gaze at the maze
You find yourself in
Life just seems to spin and spin

You've tried it your way
But you've not found the way out
You've run down that hallway
And you've run down the other, too
But every door has been locked to you

But behold I AM He
That can set you free
For more and more
I can open the door
Because I hold the key

I AM the Way
The Truth and the Life
I AM the Open Door before you

For I bring good news today
It's called the gospel of peace
And it's a gospel of release
It will destroy every burden

That's brought you down
And brought you low
To the ground

But I'm going to lift you high
And let you fly
If you'll walk with Me

If you lift your heart to Me
I'll help you see
Far and wide

But the pride must go!
The pride must go!

For no one, says the Lord,
Shall glory
in My sight

No flesh shall walk before Me
In its pride
For confusion will be
The prideful man's victory

In his maze he will stay
Dazed and glazed
And blazed, not phased
But razed to the ground

Forsaking a crown
He'll wear misery with a frown

So Arise! Arise!
Throw off your beggar's clothes
And take My mantle upon you

For My yoke is easy
And My burden is light
My glory and grace
Will give you sight

For those that wish to be
And to see good days
The Spirit of the Lord says, Come!

Come unto Me
All that labor
And are heavy laden
And I will give you rest and peace

Jesus, the Way Maker

Recorded by Linda Lee in Eureka, CA
Tuesday, April 17, 2007

1 SAMUEL 16:7

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

(KJV)

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

(KJV)

How to Receive Power

Once you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you primarily need two things: First, you need to learn about God and His ways, and that requires plenty of teaching and study from His word. Secondly, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so you can be endued with power. This power will put God's "super" on your natural.

Most Christians fail to do the first, and as a result of failing to do the first they fail to find out about the second, much less come to understand how to proficiently walk in the things of God. Therefore, most Christians tend to live far below God's desire for them. They end up living in the natural instead of walking in the supernatural as God planned.

There are many other reasons that Christians fail to live in victory. But most come down to not knowing their rights and privileges and the blessings God desires to impart. Sometimes from a lack of giving the proper attention to these matters, sometimes because of deception, and sometimes from simply following a blind leader. Whether

purposely or by accident, either way, you can end up with the same result. So it pays to check out for yourself what God has to say. So carefully follow what I am about to show you. Whether or not it makes sense, it is the truth of what God has said. You can read it for yourself as I walk you through how to receive God's power in your own life.

ACTS 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The ministry of the Holy Spirit has got to be one of the most misunderstood subjects in the entire Bible. I believe the reason for this is due to the fact that most churches have only taught one major work of the Holy Spirit, while, according to the New Testament the Holy Spirit is responsible for two major works in the life of a believer. The other reason there has been a great deal of confusion around the ministry of the Holy Spirit is due to the work of the devil. For centuries he has tried to confuse people and keep them from learning what I am about to share with you.

The Holy Spirit within you, which is the first work of the Holy Spirit, is also known as being born again. This work of the Holy Spirit is the key to the New Testament and is the most important decision that a person can make while alive on planet earth. Without the first work of the Holy Spirit, in this present age, no one will enter into the kingdom of God. There are no back doors and there are no other ways into the kingdom except to be born into it by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Most people in the world today and many people in the church have failed to realize that we are all living right in the middle of the greatest spiritual war of the ages. Worst of all, our enemy the devil, has deceived most people into believing that he is nothing more than a mythical figure seen on Saturday morning cartoons. But Jesus knew the reality of this spiritual outlaw and so should we. Knowing your enemy and his tactics is one of the most important things you can do when you are engaged in combat. I guarantee you that the devil and his demon cohorts have spent plenty of time studying you and your weaknesses.

Now God realizes that once we are born again we need power to engage in spiritual combat because

we cannot fight the devil without God's help. So what did God do? He sent The Holy Spirit to empower and teach us how to combat the enemy.

For these reasons God desires to pour out the Holy Spirit upon you. This is the second work of the Holy Spirit, also known as being filled with the Spirit, empowered or anointed. This work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life endues him with power and ability for service in the Kingdom of God.

Now I mentioned that there are two works of the Holy Spirit. I also mentioned that there is a lot of confusion about these two works but we can see the perfect example of these two works in the lives of the disciples. We can read the account of when the disciples were born again in John 20:19-22. This account happened in the evening of the same day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, which was also the Jewish Feast of First Fruits.

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, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Here in John 20:22 we see the disciples received the first work of the Holy Spirit, which is salvation. When Jesus breathed on them they were born again.

We then see the disciples encountering the second work of the Holy Spirit in their lives when they were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4 on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. This feast was fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits when the disciples were born again and received salvation.

ACTS 2:1-4

1 Now when the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

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

We know that the disciples had to be born again before they could be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us in John 14:16-17 that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus was referring to the second work of the Holy Spirit because the world can receive the first work of the Holy Spirit, which is salvation.

Remember that once you have been born again you are not of this world but you become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven and only then are you a candidate to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is interesting that the first work of the Holy Spirit is characterized by a breath of air, while the second work is characterized by a rushing, mighty wind. This is similar to when Jesus compared salvation to a fountain of living water and being filled with the Holy Spirit to rivers of living waters flowing out of us.

JOHN 4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. [Salvation]"

JOHN 7:38-39

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. [Empowerment]"

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A fountain is enough water for one person while a river speaks of power and water for many.

You may be wondering, "What is the purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit?" The first purpose is to endue the believer in Christ Jesus with power to be a witness in this life (Acts 1:8) to help you give water to others. The Holy Spirit also helps us to mature and leads us into truth (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit can also bring the word of God to our remembrance (John 14:26).

The Holy Spirit also gives us a new prayer language called *tongues*. Tongues can operate as a devotional prayer language between a believer and God. It is like speaking to God in a secret code as it says in 1 Corinthians 14:2: "*For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*"

Despite what some people may teach or believe – tongues have not passed away with the last apostle. If you are born again and desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit all you have to do is ask Jesus, your High Priest to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. That's right, it's a free gift just like salvation. You do not have to wait or tarry for the Holy Spirit, you just need to receive Him by faith. The Holy Spirit baptizes you into the body of Christ when you are born again. But Jesus baptizes you with the Holy Spirit and fire, as John the Baptist proclaimed He would.

So I encourage you to pray to receive the Holy Spirit now. Just invite Him by saying, "Jesus, I ask you to baptize me with your Holy Spirit, in Your name I pray." Then begin to thank Him. Then as an act of faith begin to open your mouth and speak.

ACTS 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Speaking in tongues sounds like listening to someone speak another language except it comes out of your own mouth. You will not understand it with your mind unless the Holy Spirit gives you the interpretation. In other words, it may sound like a bunch of babble but it is not. It is an effective weapon that your enemy cannot decipher. You may begin by speaking a few syllables like a baby but as you continue the Holy Spirit will fill your mouth with more articulate sounding words. Even if you don't understand what you are saying, God does.

Nevertheless, speaking in tongues can be very valuable and it gives you the ability to pray perfectly to God unhindered by your mind. Do not worry what it sounds like just know that the Holy Spirit is helping you to pray more effectively to the Father. And remember that the Scripture teaches us to pray with our understanding also.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

In conclusion, you need to understand that speaking in tongues may seem weird but it is the equivalent of a Christian recharging his or her spiritual battery. Speaking in tongues is also an effective form of communication set up by God, which only He can understand, nor can we mess it up with our own minds. The language of speaking in other tongues is as viable as any other language on earth. Tongues is merely a language spoken through man's spirit directly to God, which is unknown by man or the devil. However, there are times when the Holy Spirit may choose to give you the interpretation of what is spoken in an unknown tongue. We can also ask Him for the interpretation, and at times, He will give it as He sees fit.

I have been a Christian for more than twenty years, and when I first heard people speaking in tongues, I thought it was totally weird. But despite what I thought, it does not change the fact that it is a true gift and tool that God has set up to use in the Church. And, in the end, all I can tell you is that it will require a step of faith on your part.

Would you like to know Jesus?

Read this page carefully, then pray.

ROMANS 10:9-11

9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." (NKJ)

Understand that salvation is not just reciting a prayer but salvation is opening your heart to Jesus and making Him Lord of your life.

Now pray: Jesus forgive Me for My sins. I turn from My sins and I receive you, Jesus, as My Lord and Savior. I ask you to come into My heart and take control of My life. I believe you took My place and died for Me on the cross and I believe that God raised you from the dead. I thank you for saving Me and revealing yourself to Me in a personal and intimate way. In Jesus name, amen.

We encourage you to contact this ministry. We would like to help you get started in the right direction.

About the Author

William A. Lee has been a Christian for more than twenty years with a degree in Biblical Studies. He completed courses in biblical studies at Crenshaw Christian Center's Ministry Training Institute and the International School of Ministry. He has taught on the life-changing power of God's word with revelation knowledge and insight to help bring believers up to higher levels of maturity and victory in Christ. William is a man with a message. Many years ago the Lord led him into an extensive study on the subject of honor and integrity. This study ultimately culminated in the writing of several books on the subject.

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