

Total Restoration

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by
Andrew A. Loos



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INTRODUCTION

Into the midst of darkness and chaos, God stepped down. The rocking and the reeling of the waters did not intimidate Him from the job at hand. To take a formless earth and create a beautiful garden inhabited by life was a dream that most might deem impossible. For the Creator of the entire universe, this was just the challenge He needed. An opportunity to do what He does best. To take the broken, the ugly, the despised and rejected and make all things beautiful. The Bible reads in Ecclesiastes 3:11. ***He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the***

world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

We read in the Word of God the many promises that are ours for the taking as long as we have entered into the covenant available through the Lord Jesus Christ. We desire to see these promises come to pass for us, but often we don't know how to get them to manifest. We have said many times within ourselves, "I know that God's promises are true, but I wish they would work for me." Wouldn't it be great if we could just create a miracle, if we could just fix our finances, if the promised healing would just show up in our bodies, and if we could really get total victory over sinful habits? The disappointment of our failed attempts, to bring manifestation to God's promises, have left room for doubt to enter our hearts and to stir questions about God's desire to perform his Word on our behalf. Because we feel that we have been cut off from the promises of God, we fabricate statements that make us feel better, but are completely contrary to the Word of God. We might say something like this:

"God just doesn't want me to be

blessed, I guess.”

“God has put this sickness on me to teach me a lesson.”

“This sin is just something that God is using to keep me humble.”

God’s word clearly shows that these previous statements are absurd, and that it really is God’s desire to bless us, to heal us, and to give victory over sin.

Psalms 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

We must stop making excuses for why God didn’t work for us and start recognizing that there is a process that must be followed to receive the promises of God. God is able and

willing to work this awesome creative power in every situation. When you need a promise of God to come to pass in your life, if you ask Him, His answer is always yes and so be it.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in him Amen.

I believe it is God's desire to teach us how to manifest the promises of God and to see this creative power at work in our lives. In the chapters ahead I will do my best to unlock some of this great mystery and reveal, through God's Word, the process of receiving these promises. I pray that you will open your heart and spirit and allow God to bring total restoration to your life.

CHAPTER ONE

PEACE WITH GOD

On the 6th day of creation, God reached out His hand and scooped up a handful of rich soil from this beautiful earth. Molding and shaping it in his hand, God created and formed man in expert detail as it pleased him in his heart so to do.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over



every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Image = the mirror reflection

God created man in his own image. Mankind was the perfect reflection of God. We looked like Him, talked like Him, and mimicked His actions. Man was created as a “chip off the old block.”

With one great blast of life-giving breath, God exhaled. This breath of the Spirit of God caused man to become a living soul. As God is a three part being: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So God after His own likeness created man a three part being as well: we are a spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body. This three part being was created to work together in harmony, the spirit as master, the soul as servant, the body as slave.

The spirit of a man is the part that is most like God. Your spirit desires godliness and righteousness. This God conscience leads us in right decisions and pulls us closer to God.

The soul of a man consists of the mind, the will, and the emotions. Isn't it wonderful how

God gave us the ability to think and to reason? Instead of making man with robotic-like instincts, God gave man a free will. Mankind was given the ability to choose his own outcome and craft his own dream. We were given emotions in which we could experience a greater feeling of being loved and a deeper sense of giving love.

The body is the method that God used to manifest the identity of a man. Every person is created with such detail, uniquely and wonderfully made. Every fingerprint is different, and every hair on the head is numbered. The care in which God used to create the human race shows the great love that He has for us. How proud He must be of His new creation.

An artist marks his masterpiece with his own special mark, so all who look upon and enjoy his workmanship may recognize the identity of the creator. Likewise, God himself made man in His own image and marked him with His own spirit that all who looked upon man would glorify the creator and not the created creature.

Matthew 22:15-22 Then went the pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle

him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

The money was marked with the inscription of Caesar. This was to identify who the creator of the money was. Jesus explained that just as the money belonged to Caesar, the hearts of man belong to God.

Man was complete. There was nothing needed that was missing. There was nothing

broken or damaged. Man was in a state of perfect peace.

His masterpiece was perfect. Everything God created had a purpose, and everything worked together in perfect harmony. God looked upon all that He had made and replied "It is good."

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was very good.* And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Peace filled the earth and safety its' inhabitants. Prosperity increased and love abounded. There was no lack for any of God's creations. Green pastures, still waters, and luscious fruit hung on the trees in the beautiful Garden of Eden. No pollutants to contaminate, no decay, absolutely no death.

The Glory of the Lord was all around. The tangible presence of God created an atmosphere of heaven on earth. Every tongue proclaimed the righteousness, honor, and praise of the most-high God. All creation worshiped and glorified the Lord. With the fulfillment of their purpose, they honored him.

Songs of thanksgiving rang loud from the highest mountain to the lowest depths of the sea. Joy sprang up like a well within the hearts of mankind. Great feelings of satisfaction filled the soul as man fulfilled his God given purpose.

God looked favorably upon man. Mankind was God's most prized possession. He made them more advanced, intelligent, and complex than any of the other creatures. All living things were given the ability to reproduce. But to mankind God gave creative power not only to reproduce, but to create more living souls that would live for eternity. In the cool of the day God and man would walk and talk together. They formed a friendship and a relationship of respect and of trust. God and man were in complete agreement.

This covenant agreement between God and man was perfect. Everything that was needed was provided. There was no pain or sickness. There was no loss or loneliness. No dying, no crying. Everything that God is, was made available to man, and every characteristic of God was seen through the countenance and demeanor of man. As a boy would imitate his father, likewise mankind imitated God by

desiring to be like Him. Our imitation of God was the greatest form of worship that we could possibly give Him.

Man was living in a state of complete and total innocence. Though man's love for God was pure, it was also untested. God's desire was for man to choose to love Him the way that God chose to love man.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

God created man to be in charge. He exalted mankind above all others and gave them authority over all of His creation. Man was truly set apart, admired, and obeyed by all creation. The mirror reflection of God was clearly seen in the spiritual fruit hanging upon the covenant tree of humanity. The precious fruits of love, joy, and peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control made man a leader worth submitting to. But, with such great promotion also came great responsibility.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Luke 12:48b ...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Man was not only responsible for the fruitful multiplication and replenishing of the earth, but also the subduing and the possession of delegated authority. It was not just a good idea, but rather man's great responsibility to guard and protect the earth from all ungodliness, vanity, and corruption. For what you refuse to subdue and keep under foot will subtly creep in and choke out your authority and overthrow you. To subdue means: to tread down, to keep under, and to bring into subjection.

This commandment that God gave to Adam was of utmost importance. God surely warned Adam of the dangers of evil, especially that of darkness in the world, brought about

by the rebellion of one of God's ark angels, Lucifer.

Lucifer was a part of the highest order of angelic beings called Archangels. As an archangel of God, Lucifer was given authority over the earth. He caused the inhabitants of the earth to weaken in their loyalty to God. In Ezekiel 28:12-14, when exposing the controlling spirit of Tyre, which was Satan or Lucifer himself, God gives us a glimpse of Lucifer's appearance and responsibility.

Lucifer was, one of, if not the most beautiful angel created. He was created to bring worship to God through music and instruments. Forgetting that all glory was given by God and came from God, Lucifer apparently mistook his talent and beauty to be his own. Pride filled his heart and sinful desire caused him to form a rebellion against God. Lucifer's desire was to exalt himself as God and to take God's throne as his own.

Lucifer's rebellion resulted in his defeat and removal from the Mountain of God. He and 1/3 of the angels of heaven, that chose to follow, were cast down to the earth.

Lucifer, who once ruled the earth, was now stripped of the glory of God and demoted from his God given position. The earth was left in a state of darkness and chaos. Now, after the creation of man, God gave mankind Lucifer's former place of authority. Man not only carried God's authority over the earth, but also His identity.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled

the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Isaiah 14:12-19 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of

the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

Because mankind was exalted in the eyes of God and all of creation, and because they were set apart to rule the earth, Satan, in jealousy, sought an opportunity to make common that which was holy. Satan desired to gain authority on the earth again. But because God declared man to be in charge, Satan's only hope was to subdue mankind and work his plan through them.

CHAPTER 2 SEPARATED

No one knows the length of time between the creation of man and the fall in the garden, for time was not created. All we know is what transpired to bring about this tragic event. The test of man's allegiance unto God and their obedience to His direction came when Satan, in the form of a serpent, entered the garden. Instead of immediately subduing this master of deception they took time out of their day to listen to his treachery.

Genesis 2:15-17 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of

Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The commandment of God was clearly articulated. The punishment for disobedience was also plain, but the greatest test was that of surrender.

Man was created by God, and God's spirit caused man to live. To be separated from God would mean to be cut off from the source of life. When God said you will surely die, He meant if man chooses to go his own way, he would be disregarding God's authority. He would be choosing to separate himself from God, therefore severing the agreement and the supply of life. To be separated from God is to be separated from life itself.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Satan preyed upon man's natural instinct to rule and his desire to be in charge. He used man's God given qualities to put thoughts of evil into the minds of Adam and Eve. Through suggestion, he caused them to question the authority of God's word. "You shall not surely die," Satan said. Satan deceived Adam and Eve and convinced them that God was holding something back from them. Satan painted a picture in the minds of Adam and Eve, one of them becoming like gods. What Satan was suggesting was that Adam and Eve should deliberately disobey God. In doing this they would show that God doesn't have authority over them any longer. With this rebellious act of disobedience they would be self-governing, just like God, with no one to submit to.

What Adam and Eve failed to recognize was that through the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would be unlocking a new experience and a new power that God was trying to protect them from. Up to this point in man's existence they only had experiential knowledge of good, and the only power and laws they knew were that of the spirit of life. Now, through willful disobedience to God, man has experienced evil. They successfully unlocked a new power and a new law called sin and death.

Adam and Eve looked upon the forbidden fruit. It looked pleasing to the eye and good to eat, but not everything that looks good is good. Instead of casting down these thoughts of lust, they harbored these ungodly desires in their heart and meditated upon these thoughts of evil. Eventually temptation was fertilized with meditation, and sin was born.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Eve took of the fruit and gave it to Adam, and they both ate. For the first time fear entered the hearts of man. The glory of God that

was their covering was removed, and they were left naked and ashamed. Instead of running to God, they hid from His presence. The relationship was damaged. Adam and Eve found themselves in a state of insecurity and instability. Mankind was broken.

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

Instead of freedom came chains. Instead of wisdom came regret. The mirror image of God was dashed to pieces. The reflection of God was smudged with the muck and mire of sin. The mark and identity were no longer spirit and life, but rather sin and death. The innocent blood of man was tainted with iniquity. Because man had surrendered to sin rather than to God, eternal death was their reward. Man's new sin nature was passed from generation to generation through the seed of the man. Instead of being born in agreement with God, every child born from the seed of a man carried this trait of sin in his spiritual DNA.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Mankind had to live under the curse they brought upon themselves. Sin became a wedge between God and man. Because they were separated from God, they were separated from all that God once freely gave. Man had no agreement with God so there was no longer access into God's glory. Instead of health, there was sickness. Instead of joy, there was heaviness. Instead of beauty, there was brokenness. Where kindness once ruled, now there was killing. Peace was replaced with pain, and death replaced life. But nothing could separate us from God's love. The unconditional love, that God had for mankind, compelled Him to forgive man's rebellion. God greatly desired to buy back mankind from the curse of sin and death, but the price that God would have to pay would be great. The Law of Sin and Death demanded the shedding of blood for the remission of sin.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

There must be a substitution. Someone had to die in place of man. The only way that a substitute could be accepted was if the blood of the substitute was not tainted with sin. The only way for eternal life to be given was for a man with eternal life to become the substitute. But man was already doomed to die. How could a man sentenced to die himself pay for the sins of all humanity? God looked for such a man, but there was none righteous – no, not one.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

But God had a plan. God promised man that he would give a sacrifice to eventually redeem mankind from the clutches of sin. He promised that there would be a man that would come from the seed of the woman. This man would suffer a temporary wound, but ultimately He would crush the head, or the authority, of Satan.

Genesis 3:14-15 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat

all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The time for such a sacrifice would be paramount. Man was not ready to receive such a gift. They had to, as God does, value relationship and value life. They needed to prove that they were willing and able to come under and remain under God's authority. God had to work with man that they might be ready to receive such a gift. So, from a sliver of eternity, God created time. Time would set the boundaries between life and death. Time declared an ending to Satan's limited authority. Time gave man security once again. it allowed man to measure the distance between generations and dispensations. This made the process God needed, to deal with man's spirit and gain back a friend, possible. Through this process man would come to understand that submission to God was liberty, and without God there is no freedom at all.

CHAPTER 3

JESUS OUR MEDIATOR

With tender kindness, forgiveness, and a firm hand, God dealt patiently with His people. From the slaying of Able, to the flood of Noah, God has shown that He is faithful to protect the bloodline of the righteous seed, the Messiah, and Savior that was promised to come. The spirit of God dealt with the hearts of men, helping them to make decisions led by their conscience. From the judgment of the flood to the blood covenant with Abraham, God taught man to respect His authority and to remember the penalty of sin. From Abraham to Moses, God set apart a nation unto himself. The

blessing of God was clearly seen on the children of Israel. God increased them in numbers and in resources. They learned how to believe and hope for a promise to come. God's chosen people expected and proved that all things are possible to them that believe.

Throughout Bible history, Satan tried countless times to reduce the righteous man's effect on the kingdom of this world. Try as he might, he soon realized that you cannot curse whom God has blessed.

The people of Israel had a blood covenant with God. A blood covenant is the most sacred agreement of all. The covenant that Israel had was the one thing that made it different than all the other nations. Jehovah God chose this nation to manifest His greatness to mankind. God set the Israelites apart from all the other nations, or Gentiles. For no other nation could say it had a covenant with the living God.

Through the Law of Moses, God gave His people the guidelines, or the terms of the covenant. God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle. The tabernacle would be a place

of worship and sacrifice to God, serving as a blueprint of how mankind could come to God and receive total restoration.

The Tabernacle of Moses

The tabernacle was made of three separate areas for worship: The Outer Court, The Holy Place, and The Most Holy Place. Although this tabernacle was used throughout the year in various ways, I want to focus on the one day of the year that I believe was the most important day of all, The Day Of Atonement.

Leviticus 23:27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

The Day of Atonement was the one day of the year that an offering was made for the forgiveness of sin. Through the ritual of this sacred day, God would illustrate the process to total restoration. The process had to be followed precisely in those days, and even through the years it has not waned in value or in power.

The Outer Court

The Outer Court was the place of repentance, sacrifice, and cleansing. The sun was shining bright and the cool breeze was felt upon the face of the high priest as he prepared for the Day of Atonement. The people sang songs of thanksgiving to God for the opportunity to enter through the gate of the Outer Court. Only those who had a covenant with God could come inside. All others had to remain on the outside of the blue, purple, and scarlet linen curtains. So God's people counted themselves privileged, even to enter in.

In the Outer Court God deals with the natural corruption of the flesh and the body.

1 John 2:16-17 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Because of sin, men lusted after things that were ungodly. Their conversation, thoughts, and deeds were displeasing to God. Sin stands as an obstacle that ultimately keeps us from receiving the restoration God greatly de-

sires to give. Therefore, sin cannot be ignored. It must be dealt with.

Before restoration comes, you must first receive the blood of the sacrifice given upon the Brazen Altar.

Exodus 27:1-2 And thou shalt make an altar of shittim wood, five cubits long, and five cubits broad; the altar shall be four-square: and the height thereof shall be three cubits. And thou shalt make the horns of it upon the four corners thereof: his horns shall be of the same: and thou shalt overlay it with brass.

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the priest would sacrifice a pure lamb. This lamb could not have any spot nor blemish upon it. The sacrifice of this pure lamb would be the temporary substitute for the sins of the people. This sacrifice was received by God and the blood was received by the priest and poured into a container to take into the Holy of Holies. This pure lamb was a shadow of the Messiah that was to come. Jesus Christ would become the pure sacrifice for the sins of all mankind.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

If we desire to have our sins forgiven, we must also come to the Brazen Altar and receive the blood of the slain Lamb of God. There is no other way to come into fellowship with God except through the receiving of the blood of Jesus. He is our perfect and sinless sacrifice. We receive this blood when we are willing to repent of our sins. Repentance simply means to reconsider or change your mind. We must reconsider our actions. We must reconsider our attitudes. We must reconsider our giving, and we must reconsider our calling.

The receiving of salvation through the blood of the lamb is not the end. It is only the beginning. It is the first step in the process to total restoration. This blood paid full price for the penalty of our sin. Through this blood we have been redeemed or bought back from the clutches of sin and death. Praise the Lord! This salvation experience is called conversion. To be converted is to be restored back to the original state. The sacrifice of Christ has re-

stored, once again, the opportunity to choose whom we will serve. Those who followed Jesus were not called converts, but rather disciples. A disciple is a student. Many people come to the altar and get converted. They feel so good because they are finally set free from the forced servitude of sin.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

I wonder, now that you are converted, will you choose to follow God or will you choose to go right back into bondage again? God wants us to be students of Christ, not just converts. After receiving the blood of the lamb at the Brazen Altar, the High Priest makes his way to the Brazen Laver. The Brazen Laver stands in the Outer Court between the altar and the tabernacle. It is the next step toward total restoration.

Exodus 30:18 Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

The Brazen Laver was filled with water in which the priest would come and wash himself completely before entering into the Holy Place. The brass finish in the bottom of the Laver allowed the water to act as a mirror to aid in this cleansing process. The priest would peer into the Laver and clearly see the dirt and the dust of the Outer Court upon his countenance.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

After conversion, comes cleansing. Our hang-ups and our habits all have to be washed away. Some people might say ***“I don’t want to come to God quite yet because I have a lot of things wrong in my life that I need to clean up first.”*** God’s desire is that we would come to Him and then allow Him to wash us and make us presentable. The Word of God, as the Brazen Laver,

allows us to see the spots and smudges on our flesh. God's desire for us is to come to the Laver as David did. We should pray that God would examine our lives through His word and bring revelation, that we might be clean and holy before him.

Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We must not be in such a hurry for restoration that we bypass the Outer Court experience. For total restoration cannot come without repentance, sacrifice, and cleansing.

The Holy Place

The noise of the animals and the chattering and singing of the people are silenced within the enclosed draperies and the roof of dyed red rams' skins. For The Holy Place is a place of consecration and refreshing. It is where the Priest will experience the authority of God and the refreshing of His presence.

From the left shines the fire light of the golden candlestick. This light illuminates the Holy Place with a soft glow.

Exodus 25:31-32 And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side:

The golden candlestick was crafted from pure gold, which represents the Deity of God. The candlestick branches off six times, three on one side and three on the other. The candlestick represents God in the center of man as the light of the world. Jesus said, as long as He is in the world, He is the light of the world. He then told His disciples that the same that was with them would soon be in them.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth

him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

When God is in the center of our lives, He shines through us. This great light expels the darkness and the wickedness in our lives. It reveals things that are hidden, even the secret things protected deep within the chambers of the heart. Light also illuminates our path to ensure that we do not stumble.

What would a Christian be if we no longer illuminated our world with the light of God? What if the candlestick of our lifestyle didn't draw men to Christ? The church would be nothing more than another organization, our services only a gathering of friends for social connection. Our giving would only be a membership fee, and our ministry only a show of

our talents and abilities. But God is drawing us into the Holy Place. He desires to restore unto us the brightness of His light.

To the right sits the Table of Shewbread. The twelve loaves of unleavened bread upon the table represent the twelve tribes of Israel consecrated unto God.

Leviticus 24:5-9 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.

God's chosen people were expected to live a life that was different than those without a

covenant. A covenant child is to be upright in heart and obedient to God's commands.

2Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

God requires holiness from His people. Don't think for one moment that you can receive total restoration without holiness. At the Table of Shewbread we recognize the holiness of God. Because God is holy and lives within us, we must also be holy.

Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

1Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

Many Christians compare their lifestyle with other Christians. Just because another person who goes to your church drinks beer with their pizza doesn't mean that it is okay for you. Just because you know a pastor that sports his body piercings and latest tattoos, doesn't

mean that you should run out and get some. Just because a church has a homosexual Sunday school teacher doesn't make homosexuality okay. Over time, the sins of one generation have been tolerated by the following and normalized by the next. What you tolerate you will never change.

Jesus is our perfect example of how we should live our lives. We must allow the Lord to set a standard for us to live by. We need to compare ourselves to Jesus and let that be the standard in which we measure our spiritual condition.

Your life is not your own. When I was young I had people say to me "You can be anything that you want to be." I now realize that they were wrong about me. As for me, I am a covenant man. I cannot be anything I want to be; I can only be who God wants me to be.

1Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God

in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Through my life, I have discovered that I like to do things my way. My ideas and my plans seem to be better than anyone else's. At least they are to me. It is very hard sometimes to give up my will for another's. In order to have total restoration, we must be willing to lay down our will for God's will.

I have tried to do things my own way in the past, going after my own desires to fulfill the cravings of my flesh. In the end, I found that when I do these things in my own reckless way, it causes damage. If I am reckless with my body it causes bodily damage. If I am reckless with my emotions it causes emotional damage. If I am reckless with my spirit it causes spiritual damage. I have also tried to do things God's way. I have found that His way is perfect. I know that God loves me, and he has my best interests in mind. When I do things God's way, I feel better, I am more blessed, and things just turn out right.

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.

The Table of Shewbread reminds us of the character of God. When you know the character of God, the difficult task of relinquishing your will is made much easier. We must come to the Table of Shewbread and commit our lives completely to the Lord.

Straight ahead toward the back of the Holy Place is The Golden Altar, or The Altar of Incense.

Exodus 40:26 And he put the golden altar in the tent of the congregation before the vail:

With a heart of gratitude and praise, the priest offers a burnt sacrifice of a sweet smelling perfume. Sweet spices of stacte, onycha, and galbanum were mixed with pure frankincense to release a savor unto the Lord after the art of apothecary.

Exodus 30:34 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these

sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight:

The incense represents the prayers of God's people. Prayer is an important part in the restoration process. It is through prayer that we come into agreement with God. It is through prayer that we express our desires and declare God's authority over our lives and into our situation. As the smell of the incense fills the Holy Place with perfume, so also you fill your surroundings with praise when you pray.

The incense was offered continually to God, representing our prayer that is made without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

God wants us to live a continuous lifestyle of prayer. Prayer is more than making requests known unto God. It is also praise and worship.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

In the Holy Place we are to offer a sacrifice of praise to the Lord. This is where we thank God, not for what He has done, but rather for who He is. If you are sick you would thank Him for being your healer. If you are poor you would thank Him for being your provider. It is this type of praise sacrifice that gets God's attention. God promised that when you praise Him like this, He will inhabit your praise.

Psalms 22:3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

This means that God gets off His throne and steps down into the midst of your situation.

Your praise attracts His presence. Like a cool glass of water on a hot day, the presence of the Lord brings refreshing right when you need it most. It doesn't matter how bad your fiery trial has been. When God steps down into your situation, things are going to change. If we long for restoration, we must learn to pray presence-releasing prayers. The high energy prayer of a person who is in right standing with God will bring the desired effect.

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.

The Holy of Holies

Now that the priest has sacrificed and cleansed himself in the Outer Court, and worshiped and dedicated himself wholly to the Lord in the Holy Place, he is ready to carry the blood of the Lamb into the Holy of Holies. When the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies he did so with reverence and respect for God and His commandments. The Outer Court was all about the natural. The Holy Place was all about the natural endued with the power of the Spirit. But in the Holy of Holies it is all about God. There was no natural light from the sun or artificial light from a candle. That which lit the enclosed room of the Holy of Holies was nothing but the Shikina Glory of God. The brightness from the God of light dispersed all darkness and eliminated every shadow.

To enter this room, the High Priest must bow himself down to the ground and come under the Vail which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. This Vail was wo-

ven into one piece of material approximately one and one-half feet thick. Not only did it separate the two rooms, but it also separated the presence of God from the common person. As the priest entered the Holy of Holies, he bowed his head in reverence to an authority that is greater than himself. The priest would remove his sandals to prevent the dirt and dung from the Outer Court from entering the place of God's holy presence.

Inside the enclosed room called the Holy of Holies sits the Ark of the Covenant. This box was the dwelling place of the Spirit of God and the habitation of His presence. The Ark of the Covenant was made of Arcadia wood overlaid with gold. Upon it was the Mercy Seat of God that was overshadowed by the outstretched wings of two golden Cherubim.

Exodus 25:17-20 You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one

piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

The term Mercy Seat comes from the Hebrew root word *kaphar*. It means to cover, cancel, appease, or cleanse. This is the same root word for *atonement* and the Hebrew counterpart for the Greek word *propitiation*. The Mercy Seat was the resting place of mercy. The blood poured out upon it would appease the Law of sin and death and cleanse the sins of man.

From above the Mercy Seat and between the Cherubim, the Lord would speak His commandments.

Exodus 25:21-22 You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about every-

thing which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

This place was called the Oracle of God, which simply means the speaking place of God. Here the High Priest would inquire of God by the means of the *Urim* and *Thummim*. These were two material objects, possibly stones, placed in a bag and drawn out at a time of decision making, known as casting lots. The bag containing the *Urim* and *Thummim* was worn on the breastplate of the high priest's garment called an ephod. The Hebrew word *Urim* means, light or *to be enlightened and bring clarity*. The Hebrew word *Thummim* means, *perfection and complete truth*. The speaking place of God was where light, clarity, and perfect truth were revealed.

Held inside of the Ark were three articles that held great significance.

Hebrews 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

First there were the unbroken tables of stone in which God wrote the Ten Commandments upon. For total restoration to occur you must be willing to follow the commandments of God. In the Old Testament, ten commandments were given, but Jesus has given only two. If we obey these two commandments we will be obeying all of God's commands.

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 'Teacher, which is the great command in the Law?' Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

God is willing to restore you totally, but you must be willing to read, believe, and then act on His word. All of the promises and the terms of the covenant that God made on our behalf, are detailed inside the Bible. We must also follow the example of Jesus, who is the living Word of God.

Second, there is The Golden Pot of Manna that was placed inside of the Ark of the Covenant to be a constant reminder of the miraculous provision of God. Even when it seems impossible, God always provides for His people. When hunger for fulfillment pangs the heart of mankind, when it appears that all hope is gone, God's faithfulness is constant. God made a way and sent His son as the bread of heaven. This bread satisfies the deepest cravings of the soul.

John 6:31-35 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:48-51 I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness,

and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

The last article held within the Ark of the Covenant is the rod of Aaron that budded. In Numbers chapter 17, the Lord ceased the murmuring of the children of Israel against Moses and Aaron. Miraculously, God confirmed his call and consecration of Aaron and the house of Levi for the priesthood. God instructed Moses to take a rod from the princes of all the tribes of Israel. He then wrote the name of each prince upon the eleven rods, and upon the rod of the house of Levi he wrote Aaron's name. Moses laid all twelve rods before the Lord in the tabernacle. The next morning upon retrieving the rods, Aaron's rod had budded, blossomed, and yielded almonds. God then instructed Moses to keep the rod in the Holy of Holies as a sign for those that would murmur against those called and ordained by God.

The priest was given to the Lord as a mediator between God's people and the covenant. The priest was placed in charge of the offerings and the holy things. Without the priesthood the people could not offer the offering for their sins and their trespasses.

Jesus Christ has become our high priest and mediator of this New Covenant that God made on our behalf. He is the sacrificial offering given for the forgiveness of sin. He became the Lamb of God, slain upon the Brazen Altar. He is the water in the Brazen Laver that washes the muck and mire of sin from our lives. He is the Light of the Golden Candlestick that illuminates our way and expels the darkness in our lives and in the world around us. He is the consecrated bread sitting on the Table of Shewbread, our perfect example of holiness and sanctification. It is the refreshing presence of Jesus that responds to our prayers offered upon the Altar of Incense and fills the Holy Place where we worship. It was His sacrifice that rent the Vail of the Temple from top to bottom, making access for us all to enter into the Holy of Holies. It was the blood of Jesus that was poured out upon the Mercy Seat of God. This blood cleanses and makes atonement for our sins. It allows us to sit at

the speaking place of God and receive His word and direction for our lives. Jesus is the way the truth and the life and the only way to the Father is through Him and Him alone.

Jesus Christ is your mediator!

CHAPTER 4

BREATH OF LIFE

When God created man in the beautiful Garden of Eden, He formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. This breath was the exhaled life of the Spirit of God, which caused man to receive a portion of God and His abilities tending to life.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

John, the beloved of Christ, received the revelation of Jesus Christ and wrote his account of what he heard, saw, and experienced. In Chapter four of the book of Revelation, he was allowed to view the very

throne room of God. What he saw was simply amazing. John, to the best of his abilities, gave us a glimpse of God's great power and majesty. The thundering and lightning and voices that resounded from the throne show that no seat is able to contain all of God. He does not sit on a throne wholly contained within the confines of a spiritual body. Instead He overflows the seat and fills the room with his glory and power. To understand this we must understand that God is a triune being. God's spiritual make up consists of three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are very distinct yet wholly united.

The trinity is very hard to explain, and we may not be able to grasp the fullness of this reality on this side of heaven, but I will attempt to give you my simplest example of this spiritual concept.

I have three different roles that I play in daily life. I am a son to my father, I am husband to my wife, and I am a father to my son. When I am with my dad, I take on the personality of a son. I honor my father, and I listen to his advice. If I treated him the way I treat my son it would be disrespectful. If I treated him

as I treat, my wife that would just be plain weird. Just because I am a son doesn't mean I stop being me.

When I am with my wife, I take on the role of a loving husband. We listen to each other's concerns, comfort each other when we are upset, and show our love for each other verbally, emotionally, and physically. If I treated my wife as I do my father, it would not be a very intimate marriage. If I treated her as my son, it would not make for a happy marriage. Just because I am in the role of a husband doesn't mean I stop being me.

When I am with my sons, I take on the role of a father. I pick them up when they fall, correct them when they misbehave, and help direct them in their daily lives. If I treated them as I do my father, they would lack the Godly instruction and learning that they need for life. Ultimately they would not become the disciplined men of God that they should be. If I would treat them as I treat my wife, well that would be gross not to mention unlawful. Just because I am a father doesn't mean I stop being me. I have three personalities and roles all very necessary and important. The amazing thing is that I can be all three at one time

without separating into three different human beings, just like God has three separate parts He plays. The three personalities of God are all wrapped up in one spirit being.

God the Father sits sovereignly upon the throne as the one and only true God. God is the creator of all things. He transcends all of creation yet is separated from creation, for He is not a created being. God is full of love for He is love. Without God, it is impossible to know, nor comprehend, true love. God is “omnipotent”- He is all powerful. God is “omniscient”- He is all knowing. God is “omnipresent”- He is everywhere at the same time.

Jesus is not a separate deity from the Father, although He is recognized as the son of God. Jesus became the first born or “begotten” son of God, when God wrapped Himself in human flesh and dwelt among man. For God to become a man, He had to leave His Godly attributes of omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. This sacrifice of Godly ability would be similar to a man trading the complexity of his human abilities for the simplicity of a worm. Jesus became the only sinless man to ever walk the earth. Because

He became a man, He had the legal right to die as the sacrificial gift for our sins. After the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, He ascended into heaven where now He sits at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Because He traded His Godly attributes for human abilities, Jesus became the perfect example for us to follow.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

You must understand. Jesus did not perform the miracles He did because He was God. That would be an unfair example for us to follow. We are not Gods, neither can we ever achieve the attributes of God, so it would be impossible for us to do the miracles that Jesus

did. Instead, Jesus performed these miracles the same way God expects us to perform miracles. It was the power of God through the person of the Holy Spirit manifested in a man.

The Holy Spirit, moving through Jesus, gave Him the ability to perform miracles. Have you ever noticed, while reading the Bible, that Jesus never performed any miracles until after He was baptized? What took place at this special event that somehow launched Him into His miraculous ministry? Let's take a close look at this scripture.

Matthew 3:13-17 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jesus requested His cousin, John the Baptist, to baptize Him. John's initial response was that of inadequacy. John felt that he should rather be baptized by Jesus. Jesus desired to show us the pattern to righteous living and the fulfillment of God's plan for His people. When Jesus was baptized and came up from the water, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon Him. Immediately after this, Jesus was lead into the wilderness. In this wilderness experience, Jesus overcame temptation by the spoken word of God. Luke 4:14 declares that after Satan departed from Him for a season, Jesus returned with something that He didn't possess before. He returned in the power of the Spirit. This power catapulted His fame throughout the regions.

What was it that caused His fame? What was it that gave Him power to do miracles? It was nothing less than the Holy Spirit, the same spirit that now lives on the inside of every believer and empowers us to do the same works that He did.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know

him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The Holy Spirit is the third personality in the triune deity of God. Just as the Father and the Son were present at the very beginning and participated in the creation of all things, the Holy Spirit was there as well. It was the Spirit of God that moved upon the face of the deep, helping to create the things that we know and enjoy today.

Genesis 1:2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

It was the Spirit of God that was breathed into man, allowing him to become a living soul. God took His Spirit and entwined it together with man's spirit. It is the Spirit of God

that gives life. Without this Spirit living on the inside of us, we are separated from God and separated from life itself. Our sins have separated us, but through the sacrifice of the Son of God, we have been reunited to God once again. This salvation experience was first witnessed in John chapter twenty. Here, on resurrection day, we find Mary Magdalene explaining to the disciples that she saw Jesus and that He was truly alive. This conversation apparently lasted all day and into the evening. That evening when the doors were shut, Jesus suddenly appeared, standing in their midst. He spoke to them a message of peace and total restoration. He showed them His hands and His side, and the disciples believed and were glad.

After the disciples believed on Him, Jesus did something that could be, in our culture, considered a little strange. The Bible declares that Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Ghost."

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

The word *breathed* is the Greek counterpart to the Hebrew word used in Genesis chapter two. What was happening here? Salvation came to the disciples. Jesus being God once again, released a part of himself into the believer. The Holy Spirit entwined Himself to the spirits of the disciples, and they became alive again. Jesus restored unto them everything that was broken and missing because of their sin. For the first time since Adam, the Spirit of God was able to live inside of man and cause man to have life eternally.

John testifies of his revelation of God in Revelation chapter four. John witnessed the magnificent being of God manifested in the throne room. It is God the Father who sits upon the throne. It is God the Son who sits at the right hand of the Father. The Holy Spirit is before the throne of God, represented by seven lamps of burning fire.

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Now we have a brief understanding of the Trinity. Let's see if we can further understand the magnitude of God and see how awesome He is. In the same way that God consists of three separate but united personalities, the Holy Spirit also consists of seven. The lamps of fire before the throne of God represent the Seven Spirits of God. This is not to be confused with the seven candlesticks that represent the seven churches mentioned in revelation Chapter one, verse twenty.

The Seven Spirits of God are seven facets of the Holy Spirit. Even though the Spirit of God is one, He consists of seven different abilities that can be accessible to the believer.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Seven Spirits of God are: the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel, the Spirit of Might, the Spirit of Knowledge, and the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. You don't have to ask for this power to come upon you. You only need to learn how to access the power that is already in you.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

When Jesus breathed into the disciples, He released the Holy Spirit. This one Spirit of God consisted of all seven facets. They didn't receive just a little, but they received all of the abilities of God that Jesus operated in on this earth. These seven Spirits of God are made available to every believer.



CHAPTER 5 WITHOUT MEASURE

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

From the very beginning until now the Spirit of God has never stopped moving. We see Him come upon various individuals to empower God's people from Genesis to Revelation. We see him working in Abraham and Sarah that they might give birth to a son

at an old age. We see His protection upon Moses, skillfully guiding him into Pharaoh's house. We see the Spirit of might come upon Joshua and the armies of Israel as they take the land that God had promised to them. Over and over again God demonstrates His mighty power upon His people in order to accomplish the ultimate plan and the task at hand.

Still today God desires to work in mighty ways. Maybe you are faced with a crisis that is too big for you to handle. Just like Moses and the Red Sea, God will make a way where there seems to be no way. Maybe you have lost everything that you own, or maybe you are just in need of God's provision. God will provide manna from heaven or food from a raven to take care of you, if need be. No matter what you are facing or how impossible your situation is, God is still a miracle working God.

In the Old Testament, portions of the Spirit of God would come upon an individual to accomplish a specific work. He may rest upon one to speak God's commands or on another to ordain the next King. We may see the Spirit of God distribute a portion upon a person for a moment, for a day, or for a season.

Take Elijah for instance. The Spirit came upon him to turn the people of Israel back to God. We soon find him on the mountain top in a showdown with the prophets of Baal and Asherah. Finally he calls down fire from heaven and the people soon recognize the Lord alone is God. Later we see Elijah with his servant Elisha. When the time comes for Elijah's earthly ministry to be fulfilled, Elisha asks for a double portion of God's Spirit to come upon him. As we continue to read about the life of Elisha, we find that he did greater miracles than Elijah had done. Even after Elisha's death, the anointing in his bones caused a man to resurrect from the dead. Many preachers today are preaching about a double portion, but you will soon see that the portion that God has for us is greater than what Elisha experienced.

2 Kings 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

Moses was a great man of God. He was spared the tragic death of children his own

age and raised by Pharaoh's daughter to be a ruler of a nation. God was even so good as to have Moses' own mother as his nurse maid. Isn't it interesting how God chose to train a deliverer and make the devil foot the bill? When Moses became a little older, he found out that he was not an Egyptian after all, but rather a Hebrew man. The time came when Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to suffer affliction rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Moses became the one that God used to deliver the Israelites from years of bondage in Egypt. He became the pastor of the first Israelite mega-church, with a congregation of around one million people. God placed a great portion of the Spirit upon Moses in order for him to accomplish such a task. After the great exodus from Egypt, the Lord spoke to Moses to gather seventy men of the elders of Israel to help bear the burden of the people. God took the portion of the Spirit that was on Moses and divided it seventy-one times. The divided portion of the Spirit was given to the seventy elders that worked with Moses.

Numbers 11:16-17 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

Since the fall of man, the fullness of the Spirit of God has never been released upon any man, until Jesus. Some may operate in the Spirit of Wisdom, like Solomon, others the Spirit of Might, like Samson. One may have a portion of the Spirit of Counsel, like Samuel, while others the Fear of the Lord, like David. God's presence, no doubt was expressed, and His power was demonstrated. Still, the lack of an eternal covenant separated them from the fullness of God.

John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

In the fullness of time, God's great gift was given. Christ, the Son of God, came to remove the heavy burdens and destroy the yoke of bondage. The Spirit that came upon Jesus at the time of His baptism was not given to Him in a small portion, but rather without measure. Jesus got it all: The Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Knowledge, the Spirit of Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel, the Spirit of Might, and also the Fear of the Lord. All seven facets of the Spirit of God were in operation through the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not lacking in anything. All this power was given to Him that He might have the ability to remove the heavy burdens and destroy the yokes of bondage.

Isaiah 10:27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

A burden is that which is placed upon you. It is something that you didn't bring upon yourself. When a child grows up, on the wrong side of the tracks, in a home filled with poverty, the poverty is a burden. He has to deal with it, but it wasn't his fault it was there.

A woman that was raped and battered is burdened with the pain of past insecurities. She has to deal with it but she didn't cause it to happen.

A yoke, however, is bondage that you bring upon yourself. Your sinful habit and your bad decisions wrap chains around you and won't let you go. It is the alcoholic spirit that chains a man. It kills his dreams. It drags him deeper and deeper into numbness, so he doesn't mourn the most important things of life that he continues to throw away. It is the spirit of seduction that grabs hold of the emotions of a man. It perverts his mind so a woman that is more plastic than flesh and infected with disease looks appealing to him. These are the things you allow to be a part of your life. If you would have only turned down that first drink, if you would have only turned your head from that first sexual image, you wouldn't have given the opportunity for bondage to take control.

Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of the Father over all authority and power. He is able to set you free. He will help you to overcome the burdens that Satan used to destroy your life. You are not counted out yet. That situation you are facing right now has to bow its

knee to the awesome power of God. Here's the good news. Jesus didn't keep all that power to Himself. He distributed that same power to every believer. We are seated with Him in heavenly places.

1 Peter 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus...

Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God...

Do you believe, and have you received Jesus Christ as your covenant mediator? If so, you are a part of the great body of Christ. He is the head, and we are the body. We are entitled to the same measure of the Spirit of God that Jesus had. We are the fullness of Him who works all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Recognize that from the moment of salvation, God's Holy Spirit, dwells in you.

Everything that you need has already been deposited within you. You don't have to look for some extraterrestrial force. You can't buy it with a great offering. There is no need to pray for more of His Spirit to come upon you. You have been marked with the anointing of God that attracts His Spirit. You have been identified as God's child. God has sealed you and has given you the earnest of the Spirit. The same Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives on the inside of you. It is the supernatural power of the Spirit of God without measure.

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.



CHAPTER 6 YEARS RESTORED

Let's look toward the future. Instead of living for today, let's live with eternity in mind. Don't allow your past to hold you back from the victory that is ahead of you. For the day will come that every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). What an awesome day that will be! What an exciting time for the believer. Have you ever wondered what it will be like? No doubt our greatest dreams and imaginations will be blown away by the reality of that day. Let's, for a moment, explore God's

word and allow it to give us a taste of the splendor that is up ahead.

Jesus told us, in John chapter 14, that He was going away to prepare a place for us. He promised us that He will come again and receive us unto Himself. He desires for us to be with Him for eternity in Heaven. But when He returns to receive us, what will we look like? How will He recognize those that belong to Him?

Ephesians says that when Jesus comes for us, we will be glorious, spotless, and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Jesus will not be returning for a church that is sick, depressed, perverted, or corrupted. He is not going to be satisfied with a church that is powerless or carnal. In fact what Jesus intends to find, when He returns, is a church that is greater than what He left. A body, not divided, but working together to clearly reflect the glory of God.

My friend, the greatest days for the church are yet to be. We have not quite arrived yet, but I believe if you will receive what I am about to say, you will understand that we are on our way. We will once again be completely and totally restored.

There are some in the church that are like surfers, swimming in the water, looking at the shore. They are observing all the waves that have gone by, regretting that they were not around or at least in position to ride any of them. One might say, "Wouldn't it be nice if I could have experienced The Great Awakening. I'm sure I could have preached like Jonathan Edwards." Or others might respond, "If only we had been alive during the early 1900's, we could have been a part of the Isuzu Street Revival. That would have been great." Still some say, "Church just isn't the same as it was; I wish we could just get back to the way things used to be." People like this desire to know why the early days were better than today. The Bible says that those that say these things are not inquiring wisely.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better

than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

Those that ask these questions are living in the past. They need to change their perspective. Instead of looking at the shore, they need to turn around and see that the greatest wave of revival is right behind them. Can you feel the swell pulling the sand out from under your feet? There is a force drawing you into this great “End Time Movement” of God. Church, it is time to get on board. We must ride this great wave of the Spirit all the way to the shore.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 expresses, “To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Isn’t it wonderful how God created our world to operate in cycles? Every spring we plant, and every fall we harvest. God has given us the ability, every year, to become more prosperous and greater than the year before.

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath

been is now; and that which is to be hath already been, and God requireth that which is past.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

In Ecclesiastes 3:15, the word *requireth*, means to earnestly desire and expect to have. We must understand that the things that have been will be again. The waves of revival that have gone by are only a hint of the revival that is to come. Revival will come again. And a greater move of God is on the way. God earnestly desires and expects to have it. Also, in Ecclesiastes 3:15, the word *past* means that which is gone by but pursues. We must realize that as earnestly as we are pursuing revival, revival is also pursuing us.

Joel 2:23-27 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall

overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The Lord has promised that He will pour out the rain of His Spirit upon us, the former rain and the latter rain all at the same time. This great outpouring of God's Spirit will cause several things to happen. First, the floors will be full of wheat. Wheat represents the harvest of souls. Precious people are ready to be gathered into the kingdom but are in need of the gospel of Jesus Christ to be preached unto them.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

God has promised that the harvest will be brought in. Fullness is on the way, for those that embrace this. No longer will our churches be empty. No longer will we toil without seeing the fruit of our labor. Don't grow weary in well doing. As God pours out His Spirit, we must continue to labor in the harvest fields. We must get ready for the fullness of the harvest to come.

The second event that will take place is the overflow of wine and oil. Wine represents the Spirit of God, and oil represents the anointing. Get ready for the overflow of the Spirit of God and the Anointing. Ephesians 5:18 says, "and be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." God wants not only to fill you with His Spirit, but to overflow you with the Spirit of God.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

To be *baptized* means to be immersed or dunked under water and made fully wet. God wants you to be immersed in the Holy Spirit.

When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit you rid yourself of all that is ungodly and replace it with the Spirit of God Himself. God wants the Spirit and the anointing to overflow your life. He wants to use you to remove the heavy burdens and destroy the yokes of bondage in the lives of those around you.

Finally, when the early and latter rain is poured out at the same time, God promised that He will restore the years that have been eaten away and destroyed. In times past, there have been seasons where God poured out His Spirit and awesome revivals were birthed out of these great moves of God. Joel 2:25 likens these moves of God to a tree being slowly devoured by the different stages of locust. Over time Satan would gradually eat away at the core of the movement until all that was left was a dead structure. The move of God that was, at one time, full of life and power eventually becomes ritualistic and barren. In this same scripture however, God promised to restore the years that have been eaten. What does this mean?

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary says that the word restoration means, "To bring back to, or put back into a former or original state." All

that has been devoured from the revivals of times past are about to be restored. If you can bare it, try to imagine what the church will look like at the fulfillment of these scriptures. What would things be like today, if the great waves of revival that have passed by, would not have waned in intensity and power? What would the church look like today, if each move of God, from the revivals in the book of Acts to the present, transitioned into each other without diminishing in intensity? What extraordinary works would be following you in your personal ministry? How could the church influence the society and the culture that we live in? We will absolutely be a glorious church without spot or blemish.

God is eagerly anticipating that which once was to be again. He desires to restore you just as though you have never been broken, bruised, or barren. All the years that have been lost and stolen from the church over time will be restored in one generation. You and I have been privileged to be a part of the greatest generation ever in existence.

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daugh-

ters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

