

Now That You Are
**BORN
AGAIN**

Chris Oyakhilome

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Pastor Chris Oyakhilome

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Contents

[1. The Real You](#)

[2. You Are A New Creation](#)

[3. You Have The Nature And Life of God!](#)

[4. You Are The Righteousness of God!](#)

[5. You Are Justified!](#)

[6. You Are Sanctified!](#)

[7. You Are Delivered!](#)

[8. God's Spirit Abides in You!](#)

[9. What Do You Do When Wrong Thoughts Come To Your Mind?](#)

[10. What Do You Do When Old Friends Try To Discourage You?](#)

[11. What Do You Do When Persecutions And Afflictions Come?](#)

[12. The Holy Spirit And You!](#)

[13. Must You Go To Church?](#)

Dearly Beloved,

Congratulations on the free gift of eternal salvation which you received when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

I want to share with you truths that are fundamental to the Christian faith; truths upon which you can build a strong and vibrant life in Christ. Study this material diligently and it will yield for you an eternal harvest.

I pray that God will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; that the eyes of your understanding will be enlightened to realize how great the hope to which He has called you is, and that you will know all that is freely given to you in Christ, Amen.

This material will help you start off your new life in Christ Jesus. As you study it, look into your Bible and study the scriptures yourself.

I believe that the message contained in it will change your life and help to shape your future according to the principles of God's Word.

God bless you richly, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome

1: THE REAL YOU

You are more than the body that you see. You are more than the case that houses your senses (your senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell). Inside you, there's something, actually, someone much more than your body. It is your human spirit, and that's the real you.

This inner man is the one the Bible refers to in 1 Peter 3:4 : “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit...”

When a man's body dies, his spirit lives on. He is still as much the human person he was before he died; he hasn't lost anything except that he has lost the ability to function in the physical world. His body may be dead but the real person, the spirit man still has all the consciousness he had before he died.

Jesus Christ told a story in Luke Chapter 16 about two men who died. One was a beggar named Lazarus. The point is not that he was a beggar, but that though he was poor, he had a righteous heart. When he died, he was taken to Abraham's bosom. The second man also died. That man had been rich in the world, but he had not lived a righteous life.

Note that when he died, his body was buried on earth, but Jesus said that in hell, he lifted up his eyes and saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom and he recognized Lazarus. This means that he could still see. Then he called out to Abraham and said, “Please help me!” You see, he could still talk. Abraham spoke back to him and he heard Abraham's voice, implying that he could still hear.

The rich man also said he was thirsty, and not only was he thirsty, he was in agony. So he begged, “Please let Lazarus come and give me a drop of water to cool my thirst.” There's yet another point to note here - he could still feel.

All of his senses were still intact. In fact, he could even remember things because he said, “Please, send somebody among the dead to go preach to my brothers.” He had five brothers on earth, so he thought, ‘Maybe if someone from among the dead goes to them they’ll believe him.’ He remembered his brothers!

This lets you know that man’s spirit lives on. And when a man is born again, it is his human spirit that is born again!

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NKJV) says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

2: YOU ARE A NEW CREATION

Now that you've given your life to Jesus Christ and have made Him the Lord of your life, you're no longer what you used to be. You may still look the same outwardly, but inwardly, you're a new person altogether. That's what the Bible says. You're not 'like a new creation,' but 'a new creation' – a new species of being that never existed before (2 Corinthians 5:17).

You're not reformed, refurbished or renovated; you're a new creation – a new person altogether. However, the fact that you're a new creation inside doesn't mean that outwardly, you'll look different. If you had a low hair cut before you were born again, the style would remain short. You'll still have the same job, family and neighbours.

The point however, is that, now your values have changed. You have a new set of values because you're a new person on the inside.

3: YOU HAVE THE NATURE AND LIFE OF GOD!

Being born again, God has given you the power to become His child (John 1:12). The nature of God has been imparted to your human spirit. You now have a new life; the life of God that Jesus Christ makes available to everyone who believes in Him. What a privilege! You're therefore a partaker of God's nature (2 Peter 1:3-4).

God is now your Father! How? Nature is reproduced by birth; that is why a dog will always give birth to a dog. And John 1:12-13 says "But as many as received Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

God has parental instincts towards you. You're a member of His Household, and therefore a citizen of Heaven where He dwells.

God is responsible for you. He will supply all your needs according to His inexhaustible riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). He has a good plan for your life, which was set in motion the moment you were born again. You're a love child of a love God, and you've been born into a love family. This is very important. He gave you this new life to become a member of His Kingdom.

The Bible declares that God has given you eternal life. This is the life that is inside God, which makes it possible for Him to be Who He is. This is the God-kind of life. This life made it impossible for the grave to hold Jesus Christ. This is resurrection life, and this life is now in you!

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13).

It is only the one who has the SON that has this life, because this life is actually contained in the Son of God. When you received Him, you received this life.

This life makes it impossible for you to be defeated by any situation. It always puts you above. Just think about it! It's impossible for God to be destroyed or defeated. Now you have His life: you cannot be destroyed or defeated, because that same Spirit that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you! (Romans 8:11).

4: YOU ARE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD!

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Imagine God performing what you may call a ‘nature-transplant.’ He made Jesus to be sin (that is, the sin-offering) for us, so that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him.

This is what made it possible for Jesus to die a sinner’s death in your place. The result is that you can now stand before God without any sense of guilt, fear or sense of inferiority (Hebrews 10:19, Romans 5:1).

5: YOU ARE JUSTIFIED!

What does it mean to be justified? It means to be declared 'not guilty.' As far as God is concerned, you're not guilty of any offence. The Bible says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" (Romans 5:1). You've been justified!

Jesus took the punishment for your sins when He died on the cross, though He was not guilty of any sin (I Peter 2:22). That's why God is no longer holding your sins against you. The Bible says, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

6: YOU ARE SANCTIFIED!

Let's imagine for one moment that you fell into a ditch, you got very dirty and someone came along and rescued you – that is, “got you out of the ditch.” The next thing you'd have to do is to get yourself all cleaned up. In other words, “Get the ditch out of you,” and that takes time and effort.

I Corinthians 6:11 says “...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

Sanctification is in two phases: first, God gets you out of ditch, that means you are born again and immediately, the Bible declares you sanctified; set apart from the world unto God. Then you must get the ditch out of you by subjecting your mind to a cleansing (renewal) process through the Word of God (Romans 12:2).

The renewal of your mind is a continuous process. Your mind was trained to think in one way: to see things physically before believing. Now, by renewing your mind, you allow your mind to see things God's way. You re-train your mind to see things from God's perspective. Then you'll speak God's words, God's ways and get the results that he gets from His word.

7: YOU ARE DELIVERED!

“ Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:“ (Colossians 1: 12-13).

From the moment you gave your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you became a member of God's Kingdom. No demon hatched out of hell can harm you now. You're free from any covenant you ever entered into, knowingly or unknowingly. You're free from every habit, sin, sickness or disease that ever held you bound. Why? Because you've been delivered from the powers of darkness!

The Bible says that God has delivered you from the control and dominion of darkness and has translated you into His kingdom. You never have to be afraid again. God is your Shepherd and His eyes of protection will always be upon you (Psalm 23:1).

The Bible says: “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). God has delivered you into His Kingdom. That's where you are now; that's where you belong. You have already been delivered from the power of darkness. Note that this is in past tense – you have already been delivered from the power of darkness!

8: GOD’S SPIRIT ABIDES IN YOU!

Another great part of this new life is that the Spirit of God comes to dwell in you. When the Spirit of God takes up His abode in you, He enlightens you in the Word of God and gives you new understanding of the Word.

So now when you study the Bible, you have a new understanding in your own spirit; it becomes applicable to your life.

Another thing the Holy Spirit does is to remind you of God’s Word (John 14:26). In addition, He gives you the power to be an effective witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

9: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN ...

wrong thoughts come to your mind

Being born again doesn't stop you from being tempted, but you must not yield to temptation. The Bible teaches that anytime we are tested, God always opens a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). So when wrong thoughts come to your mind, you must:

(1) Remember That You Are A NEW CREATION

These thoughts come to you as an outside force, a form of temptation from the devil. You don't manufacture them in your mind, especially now that you're born again. The Bible says we (born-again believers) have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2: 16). You must remember who you are now, a new creation! God always wants us to remember that we are new creations, and that He has given us the new life. This new life is what you have to believe in.

(2) Walk In Obedience

Obey God! Let us suppose that the thought of a bad habit comes to you. The pressure is so much on you to do that wrong thing; you might even go as far as the beginning stages of the wrong deed. But right there when you remember that you're born again; a new person, you suddenly have the courage and boldness to shrug it off.

Obey God! You see, being born again does not mean that wrong thoughts do not come to you but the point is you should not allow them to take a hold of you. Refuse them! Someone has rightly said, 'you can't stop birds from flying over your head, but you sure can stop them from building a nest there!'

You may not be able to stop these thoughts from coming to you because they are an outside force, but you can stop them from lodging within you. Don't let the wrong thoughts lodge within you, don't let them gain dominion or mastery over you. You can stop them by thinking on the right things instead (Philippians 4:8).

Suppose you were a stage artiste or performer and you were to play the role of a woman, though you're actually a man. You would put on a woman's dress and wig and perform and talk like a woman, but you won't forget that you're a man at the end of the act. You'd get off the stage and go back to the dressing room, change into your real clothes and walk down the street. When you set out to work on Monday morning, you won't forget that you're really a man. You'd talk like one and live like one. It would be ridiculous for you to go back to work talking and behaving like a woman, the way you did while acting on stage the other night.

The same thing applies to you now. You acted the wrong way before you were born again, but now you have a new life. That new life is the one you're supposed to live now. You've been playing the role of a woman for a long time and sometimes you forget yourself and start acting like one. But then you remember again that you're really a man and you correct yourself. You wise up and say, "Oh, I'm not a woman; I'm not on stage acting; I've got to be real!"

That's the way you should stop a bad habit. Say to yourself, "Look, I'm born again. That's my real nature!" No matter the habit, when you remember (and you will remember), STOP! Say to yourself, "I'm born again! Stop it right there!"

Don't let the cycle of sin go on, and don't be ashamed to tell anyone involved in it with you, "Oh, I'm sorry I can't do this because I'm born again." Get rid of bad habits by replacing them with good ones. Do this deliberately. Find out godly character traits from the Word of God and train yourself in them through practice.

(3) Be A Doer, Act The Word!

God doesn't want us to be hearers only but doers of the Word: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was" (James 1:22-24).

You become a doer of the Word when you remember the Word and act accordingly. And you'll always remember it. That is one of the things the Holy Spirit does in us. Jesus said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

Thank God the Holy Spirit is right here; He helps us remember the Word! Now, when you remember the Word, you must act on it. Don't be troubled about remembering; the Holy Spirit will bring it to your remembrance. But you must always be ready to obey Him when He brings these truths to your mind.

(4) Remember That Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You

You must remember one thing: Wrong thoughts don't have the power to gain the mastery over you unless you allow them.

“For sin shall not have dominion over you” (Romans 6:14). Sin shall not gain lordship over you. It will not have the upper hand, because you're not under the Law but under grace. That's what the Bible says about you.

God has delivered you from the powers of sin and of darkness, and delivered you into His Kingdom: “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” (Colossians 1:12-13).

That's where you are, now that you are born again. And that's why the powers of darkness can't have dominion over you; they're in the realm of sin but you're in the realm of God's life, which supersedes sin. So you see, they cannot have dominion over you.

Colossians 1:14 says, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” In Christ Jesus we have redemption. This is our present-hour possession (Ephesians 2:5-6). We're not trying to have it, we have it now! We must retain this consciousness of the Word of God and rejoice in it.

10: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN ...

Old Friends Try To Discourage You?

Now that you're born again, you belong to a new family. You don't belong to your old family anymore. This doesn't mean you must completely abandon those old friends and acquaintances or reject them. You have to be a light to them. They're still in the dark, because they don't have Jesus Christ in their hearts. You must remember that you've become the light of God to them. Share the Gospel with them so they too can follow Jesus.

What are you supposed to do when they try to discourage you? The Bible says that in the last days there will come scoffers who will do every wrong they can think of and laugh at the truth (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Scoffers are those who try to discourage you and take you back to the old life, but you must refuse to be moved by them. Refuse to allow their attitude stand in the way of your fellowship with Christ. Refuse to be 'unequally yoked' with them. Don't accept their counsel. Instead, maintain your stand for God and His Word.

Unequal Yoking

In the early days of mechanized farming, a farmer would yoke two animals, for example, two donkeys or two oxen, and attach them to a plough. The two animals would plough the ground as they moved together. Because they were

yoked together, the two animals had to move in the same direction, wherever the first one went, the second went too. The farmer directed them and they had to go in the same direction, as long as they were under the same yoke.

Now if both of them were donkeys, it was called an 'equal yoke,' but if one was a donkey and the other was an ox, it was called an 'unequal yoke' (because they were not of the same kind). If we are to be yoked together with anyone, it must be an 'equal yoking,' that is, a Christian and a Christian walking together in companionship. But if a Christian and a non-Christian are in companionship together, they're unequally yoked. And God is saying, "Don't be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

So you see, if you and a non-believer are in companionship, living the same life, then you're in an unequal yoke, and this is wrong. God doesn't want you in an unequal yoke, but to be equally yoked with other Christians, doing the same things. Non-believers cannot be your best friends. No matter how moral a person is, as long as he's not born again, he cannot be your best friend.

It is impossible and unacceptable before God, because it is an unequal yoking. Your assessment of an individual can never measure up with God's assessment.

Once, God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as King of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). When Samuel saw the first son of Jesse, Eliab, Samuel said, "Surely this must the Lord's anointed before Him," because he was huge, tall and handsome. But God spoke to the Prophet and said, "Don't anoint him, because I have rejected him." Then He said, "For man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart, the inward man." So your assessment of an individual is at the most, based on the outward appearance – what he says, how he looks, the way he walks... You can form all kinds of opinions about him based on these, but you see, God looks at the inward appearance.

One who is not born again doesn't have the right spirit with God. The only way by which one can be right with God is to be born again. This is the only time the person qualifies to be your best friend. Until he's born again, he cannot be your best friend; he doesn't qualify by God's standard to be such. Now that you're born again, your desire should be to please God, so you must not use your own standards. This is very important.

Keep your heart on God's own and He'll see you through (1 Corinthians 10:13).

11: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN

Persecutions and afflictions come?

In Mark 4:1-9, Jesus told us about the parable of the sower. The man went to sow his seeds and some fell on stony ground, some on hard ground, some among thorns and others on good ground. In verses 16 & 17, the Bible says, “And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.”

He's talking about those who have no root in themselves, and so endure affliction only for a time. He says although such people eagerly accept the Word, when afflictions or persecutions arise for the Word's sake, they're offended. This has happened to several people.

What Jesus is saying here is that there are many people who really don't have a deep love for Him. They're excited about the Word of God because of the promises of eternal life, happiness and answered prayers, but they don't really have a deep love for God. So when persecutions come, they give up. This is sad! When persecutions and afflictions come, what you ought to do is follow the Word:

(1) You Must Have A Deep Love For God

God wants you to have a deep, strong love for Him. Love can increase or decrease. The more you think about Him, listen to His Word and have fellowship with Him in prayers, the greater love you'll have for Him, because love increases with acquaintance. The more acquainted you are with God, the more you love Him. The more you listen to His Word, the more you discover Him and love Him, and then the more of Him you receive.

When you have this strong love for God, His Word becomes rooted in your heart, so that when you're faced with any situation, you know God's position concerning it and you promptly declare God's stand about it.

The Bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:20-21), and that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34-35, 37). When you fill your heart with God's Word, no matter the situation, you will see things God's way and speak the same. And it will come to pass!

(2) Don't Give Up!

You must not give up when problems arise! Being born again doesn't mean that problems will not come, neither does it mean that there will be no trials. What it simply means is that in the face of all difficulties, in the presence of all problems, God will take you through. As in Psalm 23:5: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..." you may be right in the presence of your enemies but they cannot destroy you: the persecution cannot destroy your life!

God doesn't want you to give up. You must stand strong! No matter how hard or difficult things may seem, never give up! God will bring you through, so don't be discouraged. Remain faithful to Him and He will never disappoint or forsake

you. You will win in every circumstance of life, because they become subject to you. Isaiah 43:2 says when you go through the waters it will not overflow you and when you go through the fire it will not burn you. When you follow Jesus Christ, serve Him with all your heart; follow Him no matter the challenges.

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

You see, God give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, so, we can't be losers. Study 1 John 5:4 carefully; it talks about the victory that overcomes this world, which is our faith. Live by faith; you're an overcomer, not a loser. You were born an overcomer, because you're born of God. You're the offspring of God, born of His Spirit!

12: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU.

To be born again, is to born of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:13, John 3:5-8). When you are born again, the Holy Spirit becomes an integral part of your life, so you need to understand who He is and recognize His work in your life.

You must understand what He has come to offer you, so you can enjoy the abundant life that is available in Christ and receive the gift (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) and power (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8) available to you through Him.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In different parts of the Bible, we find mention of the Holy Spirit.

- In the Old Testament, we see Him impart power and ability to do the extraordinary (Judges 14:6, 19).

- In the New Testament, we see Him even more prominent in the birth, ministry and life of Jesus (Luke 4:18).

- The Holy Spirit is also seen in Acts 2: 1-4 in operation in the lives of the disciples of Jesus.

- He is God. He is a Divine Person and He is the third Person of the Trinity (John 14:16-17, John 15:26).

- He has been in existence before time (Genesis 1:2).

- He is the expression of God's power. In other words, He is the part of God that accomplishes whatever words the Father speaks (Genesis 1).

- He is the Spirit of love, power and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

- He is the Spirit of Liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT?

It is also worth noting that the Holy Spirit is NOT a force, wind, oil or dove, although from Scripture, we see Him symbolized as such. He's not 'tongues,' though He gives the utterance to speak. He's not 'power,' but He brings to us the power of God. He's not the Spirit that brings you again into bondage to fear (Romans 8:15), but of Liberty (2 Corinthians 3:17).

WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- *The Holy Spirit gives us divine power (Acts 1:8). This word 'power' translated from a Greek word 'dunamis,' actually means 'dynamic ability to cause changes.' It's when the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. He gives us the ability to*

change things in our lives and in the lives of others.

- He gives us boldness to preach the gospel (Matthew 28: 18- 20, Mark 16:15-18).

- He guides and directs us (John 16:13, Romans 8:14).

- He comforts us (John 14:18, Acts 9:31). -He instructs and teaches us (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:11-12).

- He walks with us and becomes a part of our daily lives (John 14:16).

- He bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God, and therefore partakers of His riches in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:16; Ephesians 3:6).

- He gives us the freedom to approach God in love (Romans 8:15, 2 Corinthians 3:17; 2 Timothy 1:7).

YOU CAN HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

In John 14:17, Jesus says, “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.”

To have a relationship with the Holy Spirit is to recognize His presence and acknowledge His ministry in your life. You must therefore spend time in His presence communing with Him and getting to know Him as a friend. You can have this relationship by spending time to pray, studying the Word and obeying the promptings and bidding of the Holy Spirit.

When you're born again, you're baptized into the Spirit of God. To be baptized means to be immersed into something completely. For example, you can take a rubber ball, and immerse it into a large tub of water in such a way that the ball is totally covered by the water. This is what happens when you're born again – you're immersed, like that ball, into Holy Spirit.

But you know, it's one thing for the ball to be covered by the water and a different thing entirely for it to be filled with and also covered by the water. For the ball to be filled there must be a way for the water to enter in. In other words, the material of the ball must permit the water to flow into it. In the same way, when you're born again, you must receive the Holy Spirit into you and be filled with Him.

Again, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a singular experience that occurs once in a lifetime. Rather, it's a continuous, daily experience (Ephesians 5:18). This relates to your consciousness of His presence and constant acknowledgement of His ministry in your life. You can be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, as you grow in your fellowship with Him, through praise, prayer, study of the Word and consistently adhering to His instructions and promptings. This way, you can be led by the Spirit of God.

SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES

As I mentioned before, the Holy Spirit gives to God's children the utterance to

speak in other tongues. One of the signs which the Lord said would follow the believers is that they should speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17).

This is a spiritual and supernatural ability by which the believer communicates directly with God from his spirit, and it is imparted to you as a gift by the Holy Spirit.

Speaking in other tongues is sometimes referred to as 'Praying in the Spirit.' When we speak in other tongues, we speak directly to God (1 Corinthians 14:4) and our spirits are edified or built up (Jude 1:20). Our spirits are also energized and refreshed (Isaiah 40:31).

Once you receive the Holy Spirit, you can speak in tongues anytime you choose. He doesn't speak through you, but He gives you the ability to speak. So you can go ahead and talk to the Lord in tongues whenever you desire to.

When you begin to speak in other tongues, you will become more fluent as you make it a regular practice. It's just like a little child who just recently spoke his first few words. The more he practices speaking, the more fluent he gets. This is the same with speaking in tongues. It's a new language, and although you didn't need to learn it, you become more fluent as you continue to speak.

Also, as you speak in tongues often, it will enhance your spiritual development and lead you into other gifts and manifestations of the Spirit of God.

13: MUST YOU GO TO CHURCH?

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus spoke of His Church, which is His Body on earth, and said He would build it and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

We are the Body and Christ is the Head. All Christians (born again) are members of His Body, and of one another (1 Corinthians 12:27). And just as different parts of the human body cannot function in isolation, the different members of the Body of Christ cannot function effectively on their own. This is because God gave different gifts and callings to members of the Church, so that the whole Church may benefit (1 Corinthians 12:18-24; Ephesians 4:11-12).

Attending Church is therefore in obedience to God’s will, and enables us to bless and edify each other with different gifts of God – miracles, healings, prophecies etc. You’re able to obtain a better understanding of the Word that is taught, hear testimonies and witness miracles. Praying and worshipping God together brings on a ‘corporate anointing’ of the Holy Spirit, ministering to each member of the congregation in a specify manner (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 1:14; Psalms 133:1-2).

Walking in the Word on your own is an uphill task when you’re not attending a Spirit-filled Church. However, participating fully in such a Church enables you to find out more about the Church and her members. You’re also able to develop your spirit (your inner man) to maturity. This makes your walk in the Word

easier and become more productive.

As a Christian, you must identify with a local assembly, a Church you can call your HOME and participate fully in the activities. Otherwise, you'll deprive yourself of a lot of God's blessings and will be walking out of line with His Word.

Now that you're born again, walk in the consciousness of who you are and don't forsake the assembly of the saints (Hebrews 10:25) - Go to Church!

Growing up

The Bible admonishes us to “study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be shamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy). I recommend to you our various books for your spiritual development. They contain teachings and revelations designed to show you how to be fruitful and productive in every area of your life, and will cause faith to arise in your heart to be just that. ‘

Get them. Study them. Put the word to work and see a glorious transformation in your life!

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SCRIPTURES

Luke 16

And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

² And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

³ Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

⁴ I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

⁵ So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

⁶ And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

⁷ Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

⁸ And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

⁹ And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

¹⁰ He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

¹¹ If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

¹² And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

¹⁴ And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

¹⁶ The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

¹⁷ And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

¹⁸ Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am

tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

2 Corinthian 5:17

Therefore, if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things are passed away; behold all things are new.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name

2 Peter 1:3-4,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:11

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.

Hebrews 10:19

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

I Peter 2:22,

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth

Romans 12:2

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

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 2: 16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Ephesians 2:5-6

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved

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

2 Peter 3:3-4,

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I

will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the Lord.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

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.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these.

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 Corinthians 10:13,

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Proverbs 18:20-21

20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Matthew 12:34-35, 37,

34 O generations of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

1 John 5:4

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

1 Corinthians 12:8-10,

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues

Luke 24:49

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

Acts 1:4-8

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

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

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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

Judges 14:6, 19,

And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would

have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

19 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Luke 4:18

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

Acts 2: 1-4

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

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

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

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

John 14:16-17

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

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.

John 15:26

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me

Genesis 1:2

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

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

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.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21 And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

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.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

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.

29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Matthew 28: 18- 20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15-18

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

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

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

John 14:18

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Acts 9:31

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

John 14:26

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

1 Corinthians 2:11-12

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Ephesians 3:6

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel

Romans 8:15

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Ephesians 5:18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit

Mark 16:17

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues

1 Corinthians 14:4

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Jude 1:20

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost

Isaiah 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

1 Corinthians 12:18-24

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

Hebrews 10:25

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Acts 1:14

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Psalms 133:1-2

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard
even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.