

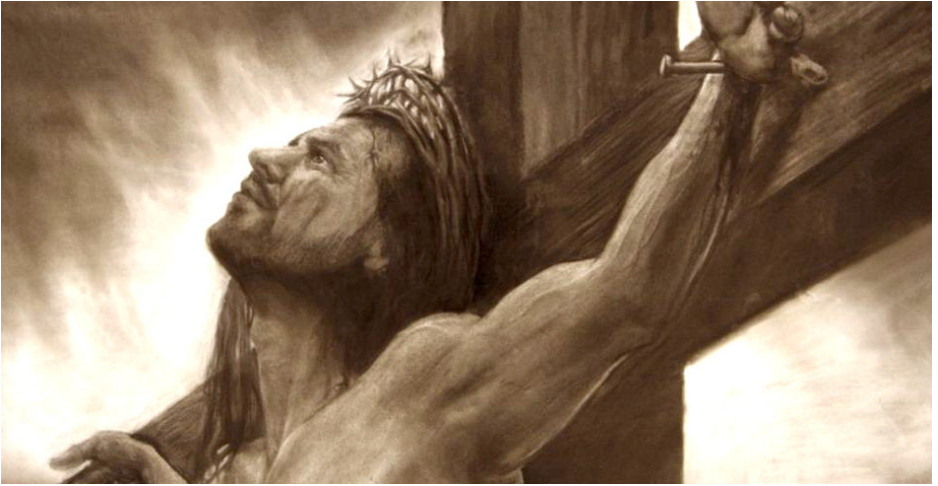


# Who I am - in Christ Jesus

## *unlocking your true identity*



By Stephen Turnham



**A**s a follower of Jesus Christ this is a very important question to ask yourself: ‘Who has God made me to be IN CHRIST?’

This short teaching is designed to give you a foundation and kingdom ‘keys’ to unlock who you really are as revealed in scripture and by the Holy Spirit.

### FINDING THE HIDDEN TREASURE

By digging deep into God’s Word you will discover the truth about who you really are in Christ. No matter how many years you may have been a Christian there is always more to

uncover about the Kingdom of God. I pray that you will receive revelation from the Holy Spirit as you begin to meditate in His Word. Commit yourself now to not give up until you have discovered this amazing treasure, it is here to be found. This is a treasure hunt with a difference!

*“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”*

(COL 2:2-3).



God wants you to have a complete understanding of Christ because hidden in him are all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge that you need to succeed in life. Everything about who you are and what you are to do is in Him. Here is the place where you must dig to find your treasure, this is the field where it is hidden.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

(MATT 13:44).

*“The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.”*

(PROV 4:7).

As these two scriptures reveal there is a personal cost in order to gain the wisdom and knowledge of God and His Kingdom. Jesus put it this way: “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” (Matt 10:39). However, when you find the wisdom, it brings joy and this joy spurs you on to humble yourself further.

### **CHRIST THE SEED**

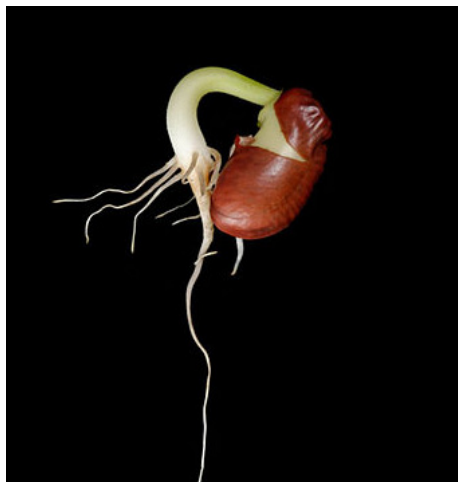
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God made the earth and everything in it (Exod 9:29), it reflects the way God thinks, it reveals to you how God lives by faith (Rom 1:20). God created all living things with the ability to reproduce themselves. He set up a

special mechanism in the created order called ‘seeds’, tiny capsules containing all the knowledge needed for the tree or body to be formed (DNA). There are all kinds of seeds, some small, some big, some hard some soft, but all with the same purpose in mind, to reproduce more of the same in abundance.

Seeds are not much use until they are planted! Unless they are planted in the right place they cannot germinate and grow, BUT the potential is still there waiting to be released. It is stored, dormant until the right conditions surround it. In most cases there is a time limit on how long the seed can last until it rots or dies and this potential is lost.

Paul reveals to us that is a similar way Christ (Messiah) is the seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16) both literally and spiritually. Jesus body was from the same DNA that originated from



Abraham and Sarah and His Spirit came from heaven itself. His male 'y' chromosome was created by the Spirit in Mary's womb which meant Jesus was the Last Adam and the first fruit of the New Creation that God is planning. Jesus was and is a very special FAITH seed which when planted in the right place (human heart) the life of the Godhead grows. The Father's will is that He will have many Sons who will be like Jesus, He is reproducing Himself in this way and His family is growing daily. His seed (Jesus) is spiritual and everlasting!

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God." (1 PET 1:23).*

Inside YOU is this seed (Christ the WORD) containing an enormous potential for abundant life, even eternal life, for in him are hidden ALL the treasures of God's wisdom, glory and power. Stored in Him just like a seed is the code to life itself, the secret of the universe. He has been planted in you by the Holy Spirit and this is the only way to be saved.

*"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."*

(JAS 1:21).

Here James (the brother of Jesus) again highlights the key to wisdom. The price to pay 'get rid of all moral filth

and evil' (repent) and then to humbly accept the word 'planted in you'.

## **RELEASING HIS POTENTIAL**

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How will you release this incredible potential and abundant life that is now within you? How can this seed (Christ) begin to grow and grow in your heart (the inner man) so that you bear fruit that will last? The answer is all around you in creation, consider again what most seeds need in order to grow into mature plants:

- 1. First** the soil must be fertile for the kind of seed you want to germinate (Heart)
- 2. Secondly**, the seed will need to be watered on a regular basis (Spirit)
- 3. Thirdly**, to fully mature it will need plenty of light (Revelation)

Probably the most important and also most well-known parable that Jesus spoke was that of the sower of seed. On explaining the secrets of this parable to the disciples Jesus compares our HEART to the SOIL and the WORD as the SEED. Some of those listening are like the hard path, some like rocky soil, some like weedy soil and some like good fertile soil (LUKE 8:1-15). The soil that bears fruit is of course the fertile soil, we all know this - but is our heart, our inner self good soil?!

Fertile soil from God's perspective is the person who is humble (JAS 1:23) and has true humility (PROV 11:2).



The Word loves a soft heart and can put out strong roots to nourish the plant that will form. This is the person who will humble themselves in prayer and fasting, seeking the Lord's face and crying out for help. This land is fully dependent on the gardener (Father) to keep him free of stones and weeds, looking to him for the fresh nourishment of regular compost (fertiliser). They persevere daily and through faith and patience inherit the promises (HEB 6:12).

Weedy soil is the person who wants to have a mixture of both worlds. A half hearted approach where things of the world (weeds) are permitted to grow. This compromise with worldly lusts chokes the growth of the word making it unfruitful. Here there is no humbling of the heart and no denial of self in prayer or fasting. In this jungle there dwells wild creatures; snakes, foxes and insects (demonic spirits) (PROV 11:3, REV 3:15,16). Jesus says that they 'do not mature'.

Rocky soil represents a heart that receives the word with joy, but because they cling to their life and religious traditions (rocks) they have no root. When they are tested (persecution, testing) they give way to fear and give up and go back to their old ways. (MATT 16:24).

The hard path represents the heart of one who is easily robbed of the word of life by satan and his minions because

they go their own way. They do not choose life, but prefer darkness to light. They think that they know best and rely on man's wisdom to save them. (PSA 1V6).

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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*"The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, 'When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."* (MATT 16:1-3).

If you are a farmer or a gardener then the weather conditions are very important to you and you learn to understand the natural sky. Jesus came from heaven to earth because it was the right time for God's plan to be planted. Jesus has been sown into the earth in Israel and He bore fruit that took the seed which has now been planted into many hearts across the globe. The WORD or SEED is multiplying like never before as millions turn to Him in faith. Our Father in heaven wants you to be 'seed conscious', he wants you to understand what he has planted in you, so that it can mature and multiply. There are still many millions who have never heard the message of the Kingdom of Heaven.

When Jesus walked in Israel the



Jewish leaders failed to recognise their inheritance, because they were 'bad soil' and not seed minded, they were greed minded. They were more concerned about the physical life and culture they had and they worked to preserve this above the truth of obeying God's word - Jesus the seed of Abraham. Their hardness of heart prevented them from seeing the truth (right in front of them), and because of this they opened their lives to lies and the father of lies. Of course a remnant who had been baptised by John did believe, but initially these were few. *"But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptised by John."* (LUKE 7:30).

As we know John's mission was to prepare the way for the Lord, that is prepare men's heart to be humble and open to receive the Word. As we know many rejected John and as a consequence they could not 'see' or 'hear' what Jesus was really saying to them.

*"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not*

*leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you."* (LUKE 19:41-44).

You must learn from the mistakes that the Jewish leaders made and be careful to recognise the day of God's coming into your life. Even though Jesus their Messiah entered into Jerusalem and was the answer to all their needs, they failed to see it because they were so caught up in their own ways.

It's easy to look back and see this now, but would you have been like them? Are you seeing the signs before you right now! Time is running out, life is so short anyway, so you must not hesitate to take hold of Christ in you. NOW is the day of salvation!

You can rejoice and be glad because, if you have received his Spirit, then you have received the promise of God, the miracle of the ages which is CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY! All scripture and all time was pointing towards this great gift from the Father. It may have been nearly 2000 years since the Spirit came, but now we are in the last days and fast approaching the end of all things!

*"I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of*





glory.”(Col 1:25-27).

### **HUMBLE YOURSELF**

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To be good fertile soil in which the seed can grow into all its glory you must humble yourself. No-one can do this for you, it is a decision you must make from your own WILL. Why is this so important? Wisdom gives us the answer:

*“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (PROV 3:34)*

If God is opposing you, then you haven’t got a chance in this life. He opposes the proud hearted because it damages his Kingdom and purposes in the earth. The blessings and wisdom of God that you are seeking will only come to you if you choose to humble yourself. The tough truth is this, if you do not humble yourself the potential of

the seed will not be released because the conditions will not be right for growth. As a father God loves you, so he will seek to discipline you and humble you by circumstances, because he is determined to bring you to maturity (PROV 15:10).

*“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined – and everyone undergoes discipline – then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant*



at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” (HEB 12:7-11).

The Bible reveals ‘ways’ that God recognises as the ‘humbling’ process and which we see in Messiahs life and in his apostles and prophets. If you imitate these ‘ways’ you will see change manifest in your life and in the lives of others around you. Jesus said, “I am the WAY” and this means he is the way to live - we must IMITATE HIM.

*“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* (MATT 11:29).

The Holy Spirit will teach you wisdom as you follow in obedience these humbling ways and these ways lead to peace and rest in your soul (Mind, will, emotions).

*“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”* (PSA 25:9)

In this same Psalm David writes that the Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. If you want to hear secrets and wisdom from God this is the only way.

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways; declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

*As the rain and the snow come down from*

*heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”* (Isaiah 55:8-11).

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## HOW TO HUMBLE YOURSELF

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So now the question arises, how do I humble myself before the Lord? As you search the scriptures and meditate on these truths the Holy Spirit will reveal the ‘way’. Here are some pointers of how men and women in the Scriptures humbled themselves. Be aware that this process is challenging and demands action in response to His commands, but if you love the Lord you will choose life and follow him daily.

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### 1. REPENTANCE

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The beginning of all change is repentance. This means that we first of all STOP! So often we are moving through life at such a pace chasing our own tail trying to do all the things that we think we are supposed to be doing, plus things we want to do, so that we can be happy and enjoy life. Even as Christians we can so easily be caught up in doing stuff for God for the church and yet we are wearing out we are tiring of doing good.

RE-THINK is the next aspect of repentance. The Holy Spirit wants us





to realise that we are not all knowing and all seeing! Only the Lord Almighty sees all things clearly. However much we think we know what to do we must give this up and cast ourselves upon Him in total and utter dependence. Not just once, but daily watching at his doors for the bread of life, for His guidance.

The FRUIT of repentance towards God must be seen by your acting fairly and honestly towards your fellow man, this is holiness. As John said to those who came to him, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." (John 3). Repentance towards God means holiness towards others, a change in attitude from 'selfishness and extortion' to 'giving and sharing'. From 'laziness and gluttony' to 'discipline and diligence'.

OFFERING our body, that is our very flesh to God in service as an act of worship is the culmination of repentance. Unless we are prepared to literally give-up our life, our desires and our destiny to Christ we cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:25-27). John baptised those who were prepared to do this, those who wanted to commit their whole self to God's will and purpose - His Word. Baptism by immersion signifies the death of self gratification and the pledge of a clear conscience to God (1 Pet 3v21). It is impossible to serve the living God without this clear conscience as the writer to the Hebrews makes clear to

us:

*"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,[a] so that we may serve the living God!" (Heb 9:14).*

In Romans 12:1-3 Paul tells us that the key to being transformed and to knowing God's will is by offering our body to God and having our mind renewed (a total cleansing).

*Seek the Lord while he may be found;*

*call on him while he is near.*

*Let the wicked forsake their ways*

*and the unrighteous their thoughts.*

*Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,*

*and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

(ISA 55:6-7)

## **2. PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

Many people only pray on a random basis or when trouble arises, but the Lord Almighty is looking for something much deeper from those who claim to know him.

Jeremiah proclaimed: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (JER 29:13, PROV 8:17). Nothing less than total heart commitment to God in prayer will do and we see this modeled to us by Jesus and the apostles.





## PRAYER

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The early disciples could see that Jesus success during the normal day was somehow linked to the kinds of prayer he offered to His Father. However, this was not ritualistic religious prayer, but rather a deep genuine relationship of love, a conversation about how to save the world from sin and death! Jesus prayed early mornings and late evenings and offered up prayers continually to the Father.

*“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” (HEB 5:7).*

Prayer is about reverent submission to the Father’s will, not to get him to do what we want. Jesus was listening in order to obey, he was watching to do what he saw the Father do. He was co-working with his Father as he set the captives free and proclaimed the heavenly kingdom to all.

Jesus quoted Isaiah 56 when he cleared the temple of the money changers and those selling animals for sacrifices (Prov 15:8). He cleansed the holy places of these things because the foundation of the temple is prayer and not just for Israel, but all people:

*“these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.*

*Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be*

*called a house of prayer for all nations.”*

(ISA 56:7).

## MEDITATION

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This is an area which has been hijacked by many falsehoods to prevent the people of God from growing in understanding. Meditation is not about emptying yourself as some teach, but it is about FILLING your heart with the WORD of God. Biblical meditation is about chewing on the truth and about speaking the word to yourself until it establishes a permanent place inside your being as it renews your mind. This was the Lord’s advice to Joshua before he went to claim the promised land:

*“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8).*

King David also knew about the power of meditation on the word of God. As we see God clearly our own life is put into the correct perspective.

*“my heart grew hot within me. While I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue: ‘Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.’ (Psalm 39:2-4).*

Prayer and meditation takes time and the Lord’s advice to us is this do it DAY and NIGHT! That is continually, as much as possible. As you do your joy increases and your spirit strengthens.



### 3. A LIVING SACRIFICE

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#### KNEELING

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When our bodies are offered to God we are to express this through how we posture ourselves before Him in prayer, meditation and praise. Paul tells us to ‘offer our bodies to God as living sacrifices’ as our acceptable ‘worship’. (Rom 12:1-3).

By humbling ourselves and kneeling before our maker we are submitting to His will and acknowledging that we are His slave, His property, His dwelling place! This is a true form of worship:

*“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

*Today, if only you would hear his voice, ‘Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did. For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.”*

(PSA 95:6-10).

*“Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.”(Acts 9:40).*

*“It is written: “As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “Every knee will bow before me; every*

*tongue will acknowledge God.”(Rom 14:11, Isa 45:23).*

*“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every fatherhood in heaven and on earth derives its name.”(Eph 3:14-15)*

If we are not prepared to kneel before our maker then we have never worshipped. Kneeling before our saviour is the very least we can do to show our love and respect for his great sacrifice on our behalf.

#### LAYING PROSTRATE

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On many occasions we see men of God laying prostrate before the Lord’s presence to honour him. The greatest example of this was Moses when he went to intercede for the Israelites after they had worshipped the idol of a golden calf:

*“Then once again I fell prostrate before the Lord for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the Lord’s sight and so arousing his anger.”(Deut 9:18).*

Moses was called the most humblest man that walked the earth and before Messiah this can be in no doubt. He is an example to us of being humble before the Lord, he saved that nation!

*“I lay prostrate before the Lord those forty days and forty nights because the Lord had said he would destroy you.”(Deut 9:25).*

An even greater example to us is Jesus himself! He was so submissive to the



Father that even he humbled himself before him.

*“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.””* (Matt 26:39).

Laying prostrate before the Father like this is a foreign concept to most in the western world, but as we have seen, this is how we must humble ourselves before the Father of all things.

### **FASTING, SACKCLOTH & ASHES**

Often accompanying the above methods of humbling we see FASTING and also SACKCLOTH & ASHES. The latter is not so commonly spoken of, but as we shall see it is an important method of humiliation before the Lord.

We have seen how Moses did two periods of 40 days without food or water, but perhaps one of the most well known times of prayer in the scripture is that of Daniel when in exile in Babylon. He was a great example of how we should come before the Lord and how this effects the heavenly warfare raging around us and in our communities. He sees God’s plan in the scriptures and recognises the signs of his times and then comes in humble prayer before the Lord for God’s will to be done.

*“In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom – in the first*

*year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.”* (Dan 9:1-3).

Let’s be honest and say here that fasting means ‘not eating or drinking’, it is a total denial of the needs of the flesh, it is taking away the source of our stomach and forcing our flesh to submit to a holy God in heaven! Jesus himself was led by the Spirit to fast for 40 days before he moved forward into the fathers business in which time he defeated the tempter satan on numerous occasions. Notice that he was ‘led by the Spirit into the desert’, and in that place there was no



resources, no food or water. he stayed there as long as the Spirit commanded it so. When (not if) we fast we too must be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit because (especially in this) He must be the guide because at this point we will see not only our true self, but most likely meet Satan and his demons who oppose us. However, the glory is that we also glimpse more of Jesus as we see him in his glorious kingdom. He will teach us how to overcome our fears and resist the devils that hound us like the jackals in the desert prowl on the lonely wanderer.

Now for the really tough one! Sackcloth and ashes was a common form of humbling in the scriptures. On occasion we see whole cities using this method to show the Almighty that they were serious about their repentance and dependence on his mercy. It is not something that you hear discussed when fasting is considered, but to the ancient mind they often went hand in hand.

We also see Jesus refer to sackcloth and ashes when he was denouncing the towns which did not repent at his preaching and miracles:

*“Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in*

*sackcloth and ashes.”*

(MATT 11:20-21).

When the Jews asked Jesus for a sign he told them that the only sign they would be given was the ‘sign of Jonah’. Jonah was the prophet who returned to Nineveh city after being in a great fish for three days with a message of judgement. How did the Ninevites respond to Jonah? Well this is what they did”

*“When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust (ashes). This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:*

*‘By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.’*

*When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.” (JONAH 3:6-10).*

Incredibly not only did the people repent in fasting, sackcloth and ashes, but also they made the animals do it as well! So what is sackcloth and ashes?

Sackcloth is a coarse, black cloth made from goat’s hair used for waste that





was worn together with the burnt ashes of wood as a sign of mourning for personal and national disaster. (GEN 37:34). By adopting this basic garment we are saying two things to God. Firstly that He is just in all his judgements because we are sinners, secondly no matter who we are, king or slave, we are all the same before him and must repent and mourn for our wrong doing. The length of time that sackcloth was worn seems to depend on the severity of the impending judgement or until a message of hope is released. We partly see the sackcloth idea in our modern societies when we wear black at funerals as a sign of respect, however some today still take on the self humiliation of real sackcloth and wood ash in times of

prayer and fasting. If we are genuine in our repentance and sincere about changing our ways God often relents from judgement, however we cannot presume to justify ourselves by fasting, sackcloth and ashes because it is not about changing God's mind but rather bringing our thoughts back into order with his.

### **THE OLD TO NEW**

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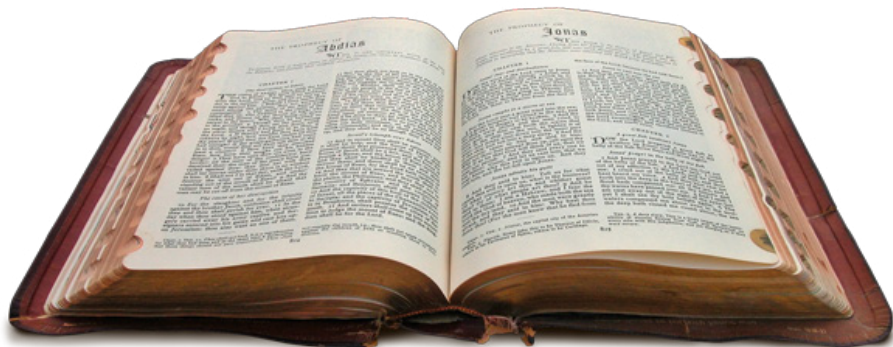
For the believer these acts of humbling before our Lord are not our efforts to persuade him to love us more, or to lift his judgement from us, because by grace we are not objects of wrath and God is for us and not against us. Christ has become the curse for us and has liberated us from the consequences of disobedience by enabling us to be





*“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*

MATT 12:36



obedient by the Spirit of His grace. For us who are born from above or born again of the spirit the purpose of our humbling is for Christ to be ‘formed in us’ and for our ‘old self’ to be crucified and cast off, so that the glory within might shine forth!

When you humble yourself before the Lord you are choosing to AGREE with God’s word. When you bow the knee to him you are saying to Him “I agree that you alone are the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.” You are accepting that His Word is His will and completely true and trustworthy (2 Tim 3:16-17). You believe that He is God and cannot lie. You also agree that His Word is all powerful and accomplishes the task for which it is sent. You also agree that He rewards

those who diligently seek him. (Heb 11:6).

When you agree with God’s word on your lips and with our actions then you are walking in truth and God is pleased with us and able to release His Kingdom power through us:

*“The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who are truthful.”* (PROV 12:22).

*“My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.”* (PROV 23:15-16).

Your father in heaven wants you to AGREE with Him with your lips. This is not as easy as it may sound at first. It is difficult because your lips are controlled by your heart, and for your heart to be pure and strong takes



work. Without this discipline you will be powerless to control your tongue and this is what guides the direction of your life as Jesus brother James makes plain:

*“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”*

(JAS 3:7-8).

Here James, the brother of Jesus, reveals that ‘no man’ has managed to tame the tongue on his own. There was only ever one who spoke no deceit and this was Jesus Christ. His promise was that he would baptise (immerse) you in the Holy Spirit who would help you to speak correctly and agree with His Word. Your tongue can be your friend or your enemy, it can purify your whole body (healing) and sets the direction of your life.

Remember Jesus’ words of warning to

his disciples:

*“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*

(MATT 12:36).

Our words guide our life and we must realise the truth that we will have to give an account of our life to God when we eventually stand before him. If we are wise we will seek to be judged for our words now before that great and terrible day.

*“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”* (HEB 4:13).

## **THE POWER OF YOUR TONGUE**

*“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*(Prov 18:21).

As we have seen this is the truth, you are never going to see your potential fully released in life just by thinking about it or wishing it. If you want to see ‘the fruit’ you must learn to agree with God and SPEAK it into existence. Right now your own mouth (not satan) is robbing you of wisdom, knowledge and blessings if you are not agreeing and speaking to yourself and to your circumstances. Nothing changes except by the Word of the Lord!

If you are continually confessing the problems, agreeing with mans traditions or worse still the language of







the world, you are ensnaring yourself and even God cannot help stop the calamities in your life! Listen to the wisdom of Solomon:

*“The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives.”*

(PROV 18:7).

You need to become more aware of what you are saying, your tongue needs to be trained to fear God, to submit to His will. It will take time to do it, training takes time, but it needs to happen at all costs because your tongue is guiding you. It is the key to a successful or shipwrecked life.

Once again Jesus is our perfect model on how to speak effectively when he said:

*“For I did not speak of my own accord, but*

*the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it”.*

(JOHN 12:49).

The Father wants to teach you what AND how to speak because He has said;

*“He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.”*

(PROV 13:3).

### **THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART**

How do you work with the Spirit to control your tongue? Glad you asked!

*“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”*(Luke 6:45 see



also Prov 4:23).

If there is any ruin in your life, it was probably something you said! Your tongue reflects what is really in your heart of hearts. Whatever your heart is full of will spill out into the words you speak. In order to change the tongue you need go to the source of the words and store up good things in your heart. You need to clear out the rubbish that has occupied your mind.

If you seriously want to fear the Lord and follow Him then you will need to allow the Spirit to empower you to control your tongue. The key to doing this is given here by the Lord Jesus. You store up good things in your heart. God's Word is the most nourishing food you can find for your heart (Tree of Life). You need to give yourself a balanced diet of all the Words of God in the Bible. That's why saints of the past died to ensure that the scriptures and writings of the apostles and prophets were preserved, it is food, manna from heaven for your spirit, soul and body.

### **FEED ON THE WORD**

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If the Word is not in you how can it come out?! It is a change process that takes time, the sooner you start the sooner you will grow stronger as you continue to give yourself to the Word of God and stop feeding on the negative words of the News of The World (perhaps you need less ITV and

more NIV!).

The more concentrated time you spend in the Word of God the faster it will begin to come out your mouth, only then will it benefit you like a sword in the hand of a skilled warrior. When it comes from the heart, God's Word in your mouth will be as powerful as God's Word in His! Only those who do this qualify in the first step of fearing the Lord, control of the tongue. (see Rev 1:16). (for more detail on the heart of man see also Spirit, Soul and Body study DVD).

### **DRINK THE WATER OF LIFE**

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The effect of humbling yourself and eating the Word with your lips is to change your heart into good soil. As with all seeds an essential ingredient for growth is also water. The Father has an endless supply of the 'water of life' which is a picture of the Holy Spirit the third person of the Godhead. He brings the power for change, the growth that comes through the creation of the new you, the renewing of the mind and the awareness of the Fathers presence in you. Remember Jesus said:

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13).*

When you received the Holy Spirit



two amazing things happened. Firstly he deals with the number one priority - your tongue is loosed to speak the very word of God. The gift of tongues is your awakened inner spirit (spring of water) welling up from within you.

*“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”(Acts 2:4).*

So the Spirit enables us to speak life giving words that are pure faith and which edify us and intercede for others. As we have seen this ‘sets the course of ones life’ and so as we express this gift by faith we speak ourselves into God’s will!

The Apostles knew the power of this gift from day one and employed it to the full and in the correct manner. Paul was particularly keen that believers move in this gift and he gives guidance on the administration of it in 1 Corin 14. The important thing here is to realise that this gift IS the work of the Spirit for all those who believe and a sign to non-believers of the Spirit at work. Paul knew that his spiritual strength was by the Spirit working in him and through him and that’s why he said:

*“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”(1 Corin 14:18). We do well to imitate Paul and use the gift God has given day and night!*

Drinking in the Spirit continuously is essential if we are to stay strong

especially when we are in a harsh world which is dry and hard towards God. The river of God flows continuously and endlessly and we can choose to swim in him either ankle deep or fully immersed (Ezek 47).

*“Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.”(1 Corin 14:4).*

## **THE LIGHT OF REVELATION**

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As the seed begins to grow from within you it also needs to receive the ‘light’ in order to bring energy and direction. In a similar way God wants us to be drawn towards the light of His revelation, to a full knowledge of Him our creator. Just as plants growth upwards towards the light we are called to grow in knowledge of Him who sits on the throne of the universe. Paul exhorts us to ‘fix our thoughts on things above’ and he prays daily for those under his ministry that they may have ‘a spirit of wisdom and revelation’. (Eph 1:15).

Revelation comes to us as individuals, but more importantly this is what builds up the body of Christ, His bride to be when expressed through prophesy.

*“I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.”(1 Corin 14:5).*



Jesus himself was pure prophecy in action. His whole life and works had been prophesied centuries before because God knows the end from the beginning! When John saw the glory of heaven and had the visions of the last days he bowed down to the angel. The correction that the angel gives reveals a great truth - that all prophecy reveals Jesus to us:

*“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19:10 KJV).*

Jesus himself beautifully sums up all these three things FOOD, WATER and LIGHT (in order to release the potential within you) when he answers the questions of the Jews as recorded by John in 8:17-30, you can be fully assured that the Lord made us and knows us, he provides for us and saves us from ourselves - He is our only HOPE!

*“In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”*

*Then they asked him, ‘Where is your father?’*

*‘You do not know me or my Father,’ Jesus replied. ‘If you knew me, you would know my Father also.’ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one*

*seized him, because his hour had not yet come.*

*Once more Jesus said to them, ‘I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.’*

*This made the Jews ask, ‘Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, “Where I go, you cannot come”?’*

*But he continued, ‘You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.’*

*‘Who are you?’ they asked.*

*‘Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,’ Jesus replied. ‘I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.’*

*They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.’ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.” (Jn 8:17-30)*

*Amen*



## **FURTHER READING**

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This short encouragement is brought to you completely free of charge, because it was received by grace. if it has blessed you, helped you and inspired you please pass it on to a brother, sister or friend.

On the website you will find other free material to build you up in the powerful faith of Jesus Christ. [www.omega-ministries.org](http://www.omega-ministries.org). We pray that these teachings will inspire you to know Jesus personally through prayer and ever increasing meditation on his Word revealed in scripture and the prophetic writings of the apostles.

We also recommend other writers in our links section who have inspired and encouraged us in being obedient to wisdom and to the ways of the Lord, some of these may not be free.

Omega Ministries is led by the Holy Spirit and financed by him. We do not need any money from you! However we do ask that you pray and consider donating to one of the areas of great need highlighted on the website. God loves a cheerful, generous giver from the heart and not under any compulsion, so that it is your free will choice, bless you. When you give we echo Paul's great prayer for your life (PHIL 4:19).

The secret to success is found in knowing the person of Jesus Christ and not in any material thing, may his life giving Spirit fill you and anoint you for the work he has called you to.

## **FREE PUBLICATIONS LIST\***

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<b>Who I Am - in Christ Jesus</b>	Unlocking your true Identity
<b>The Sabbath Rest - in Christ Jesus</b>	Living in the Presence of God
<b>The Inheritance - in Christ Jesus</b>	Unleash your true potential
<b>Overcoming - by Christ Jesus</b>	Overcome the schemes of
Satan	
<b>The Fear of the Lord - in Christ Jesus</b>	Living in the Fear of the Lord
<b>More Than Conquerors - in Christ Jesus</b>	Imitating the Apostolic
<b>The Commands - of Christ Jesus</b>	Obeying the Master
<b>Overcome Deception - by Christ Jesus</b>	Discerning spiritual blindness

## **YOUR FEEDBACK**

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We appreciate all feedback and are open to correction if based entirely on the revelation of scripture. We by no means claim ownership of any truths or understanding expressed in these documents, but pray the Holy Spirit has inspired us and you. our motto will always be: SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Amen

\*There may be more than listed here

