

**THE END TIME
LAYMAN
MOVEMENT**

As revealed to Demos Shakarian

Demos Shakarian

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THE GREATEST BUSINESS IN THE WORLD

*The most important revelation given by Jesus
to Demos Shakarian regarding the coming
layman movement!*

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is comprised of men, women, and young people from over 100 nations and all Christian church denominations. Our name signifies the following:

FULL GOSPEL: Miracle healings. Speaking in tongues. Powerful deliverances. Men who could talk about God, but also men who know how to demonstrate the power of God in their own lives and in the meetings. This is an explosive ministry led by Spirit-filled men.

BUSINESS MEN: Laymen. Ordinary people becoming extraordinary through the power of the Holy Spirit.

FELLOWSHIP: A group of people who love to get together and witness the love, the compassion, and the reality of Jesus Christ.

INTERNATIONAL: The whole world. All flesh. A deep concern for every nation and every race.

Introduction

As the founding president, Demos Shakarian gathered FGBMFI leaders from all over the world during November 1982 on the 30th anniversary of the Fellowship.

During that meeting, Demos laid out God's prophetic direction for the future of the Fellowship and for every member.

God had used FGBMFI to spark the Charismatic Renewal that brought the power of Jesus to over 100 million Christians in little more than a decade.

But now, Jesus was making Demos aware of something greater: an end-time strategy to change the body of Christ and prepare her for participating in the greatest business in the world—the great harvest!

Demos Talking to His Men....

The Future Impact of FGBMFI

God has blessed this fellowship. We've had two days of executive committee meetings, and the input that other areas and other countries are giving is just fabulous. It's a true international committee meeting. I rejoice and am thrilled.

We're talking about structuring the Fellowship in such a way that there will be no more limit to the growth. We've been planning for two days, and two days before. And in January, when the board meets, you'll be told in depth some of our plans.

We have 50,000 paid members now [in 1982] and it's growing fast. But with this new structure and policies and strategies, it's so simple. This brother here helps big corporations plan their business so that, instead of doing business in the hundreds of thousands, they can do business in the millions just by proper structure. It's a flow.

We can learn in a simple way how to explode. In a few years, we could have 500,000 members, then a million paid members. Think of the impact we would have.

1982: 50,000 paid members
750,000 people per year in FGBMFI meetings

Future: 1 million paid members
15 million people per year in FGBMFI meetings

The Revelation of the Layman Movement

In 1943, Dr. Price and I got together because of my sister's accident. She was crushed. Her left pelvis was ground up. Without going into details, she had no hope. If she lived, she would be a cripple for the rest of her life. We took x-rays all week and the only hope we had was for a miracle of God.

Dr. Price came one night and prayed for her. The power of God came upon her, and she rolled in the Spirit. When they took the x-ray the next day, Dr. Price knew she had been healed. I knew, the doctor knew, she knew. The x-ray showed that the ground-up pelvis that was there was now perfectly intact.

That was the first x-ray miracle I had seen in my life.

Naturally, Dr. Price became very dear to me. He was a giant of an orator trained by William Jennings Bryant. He was probably the greatest orator I have heard, even now, and God put me with him almost every week. I don't know why I met him every week, but we averaged at least three times a month. We had a little log cabin place; Norman Frost knows it—it's a little Italian restaurant in Downy. We'd go in there and sit in a corner at noon and wouldn't leave that place until three or four o'clock. He just poured his heart out to me. Some evenings, he would even come down to my home.

Then, in 1943, he gave a revelation. Now remember, at this time, there was not too much happening spiritually. Everything was low. Then, he told me about the deliverance ministry. There was a deliverance ministry coming. God was going to touch the men, and He was going to anoint them and they were going to have crusades: tens, twenties, thousands would come to be healed. He called it the deliverance ministry. People did not use the term “deliverance” at that time—just evangelistic healing meetings—but Dr. Price called it a “deliverance meeting.”

He died in 1947, and great preachers like Brother William Branham, Oral Roberts, and Billy Graham all rose to fame. Two months after he died, they came on the scene. All these great evangelists, men like T.L. Osborn, all came right in. Just like he had said—I recognized it.

Dr. Price had said that, after the great deliverance preachers, there would be laymen coming together all over the world. They were going to have a very big impact. He said, “We’ll have the evangelists, pastors, teachers—all of them pouring out their heart for Jesus, but when the laymen come, they will be the last sources that God is going to use before Jesus comes. On the heels of the deliverance ministers will come a layman movement—it’s going to sweep the world.”

And then he began to describe some of the things that would happen regarding the Spirit of God being poured out. As he would tell me, he would also tell me about the miracles that these men were going to do.

He told me about basket cases. I didn’t know anything about basket cases. I was not aware of hospitals loaded with basket cases. Dr. Price said men would walk in the hospital and anoint those who can’t use their hands or their feet. They are just lying in a basket being fed by a nurse—being kept alive until they eventually wither away.

Men would walk in there and anoint them, those legs and arms would come loose, and they would walk out. This was to happen before Jesus comes.

Then he told me the story of Sister Johnson. Here was a lady who, for 20 years, didn't walk. For 10 years, she crawled. The last 10 years, her husband carried her on a pillow because there was no way she could walk. She was just skin and bones. Her legs were twisted up. Her hands were twisted up. There was nothing to her except for the fact that she was breathing, she could whisper, and she was on a pillow.

Dr. Price said, "I was driving through the city, and my car wouldn't go; it kept turning in this town and I said, 'Lord, what is it?'"

God said, "I want you to hold a revival here."

So, he pulled into a little Methodist Church and talked to the pastor and found out he could have every night. He started there with just a few people, and this husband would often bring in this lady who was crippled. He would sit her on a pillow on the pew.

A few nights later, the lady indicated to him to call the pastor. She whispered to him that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus. There, she accepted Jesus. She was well known in the city because of her condition.

Two nights later, Dr. Price told Demos, "The Spirit of God came on my head like a blanket."

That's what happened at the hospital with Demo's sister. They got to the door at 10:30 PM. Dr. Price turned to Demos and said, "Your sister will be healed tonight." Later, I asked him how he was so sure. He told me, "Every time the Spirit of God comes to me like a blanket on my head and shoulders, it's a great miracle."

"While I was preaching, the Spirit of God dropped on me like a blanket. I stopped preaching, grabbed my bottle of oil, and said, 'Folks, you're going to see a great miracle!' I jumped over the railing, went to this lady on the pillow, and anointed her with oil in

the name of Jesus.” He said, “Demos, those hands began to snap; those legs began to snap and crackle. She began to stand up and walk. She walked out of that building.”

The next day, she began to walk around town. Thousands came to the meetings. The power of God came down, and there were miracles.

Dr. Price said, “That’s what I’m talking about, Demos. That’s what the laymen are going to do.” That was in 1943. He reiterated these revelations he was getting until he died. My father and I were pallbearers at his funeral.

When we started the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International in Clifton’s Cafeteria, we struggled. But I want to jump over to 1955, when we had the vision—even with that, the devil was fighting and fighting. Fighting for my business. The other night, my wife said, “Honey, why is it that everything we’ve done has been so hard?”

I said, “I know, we’ve talked about it.”

God has done some wonderful miracles for us despite it all. The devil is very much alive, but I know One that has even more power, and that’s Jesus!

Dr. Mordecai Ham

So, we come to 1955. I saw the deliverance ministry come in and I recognized it right to the T. There was no confusion. I saw it, and I knew it. That's why I put my shoulder to it and tried to help it all that I could. I knew this was of God. Some of the men were wondering, *What's going on?* But I knew this was of God and I helped many of the evangelists. Any way I could help them, I helped them.

In 1955, I was in Houston, Texas. I was still struggling, moving a little bit.

Then, Andy Sorrel came to me and said, "Demos, there's a Dr. Mordecai Ham here to see you; he wants to talk with you."

I said, "I've never heard of him. Who is he?"

Andy said, "Billy Graham was saved in his meeting. He's one of the great Baptist preachers. Over 10,000 preachers are preaching because of this one man." Wow! I wanted to meet a man like that!

So we got together and spent three days together. He said, "Demos, I know more about this Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship than you do."

Now, here was a Baptist telling me he knew more than I did. "God's told me to come down here and talk to you. Son, I've prayed all my life. I knew that God was going to raise a layman movement before Jesus comes. And I've prayed all through my ministry, 'When, God? When?' Recently, I was praying, and God showed

me this Fellowship: Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. God said, 'This is the instrument that I'm going to use.' God told me to come and tell you that this is the instrument He's going to use before Jesus comes.

FGBMFI is God's instrument to awaken laymen—the sleeping giant of evangelism!

Now, here was this great Baptist preacher. He wasn't Spirit-filled like how we know Spirit-filled. He was anointed. He had the power of God in his life. God used him in that way. Here he comes to tell me that we're going to see great miracles. As he talked, all of a sudden, I'm hearing Dr. Price. I said, "Wait a minute—this was what Dr. Price was telling me 12 years earlier in 1943. Now the Baptist preacher is telling me this is the instrument that God has called for this purpose.

Then I put the two together, and suddenly, the awesome feeling of responsibility came on me. It was more than I realized. I didn't understand it. I didn't think God wanted me to know that—until then.

He said, "Don't you ever look back! Don't you ever look back!"

The Revelation of the Layman Movement

Just before the return of Jesus to the world, God is going to raise up a world-wide layman movement. These men and women will minister just like Jesus ministered with signs, wonders and miracles.

FGBMFI is God's instrument to awaken this world-wide layman movement.

News Like Today's Newspapers

So, the Fellowship began to grow. It began to multiply. I want you to know one thing: Demos Shakarian can't do nothing. I found that out when I was ready to quit many times. I don't want to go into that. But you men, right here, thank God! You have come in and shouldered this thing. If it wasn't for you men right in this room, this wouldn't have happened. You men, right here. The ones who have made this happen, you're here right now.

I thank God for you. This, to me, is a great joy. For the first time, in this manner, come and talk about what God has for us. I have very deep emotions in me. I've walked this way for 42 years. I've known about this revelation since 1943—that's a little more than 39 years ago [in 1982]. Step by step, line upon line, day by day, little by little, struggle, work, work, now up to here. It's beautiful. Sometimes I felt I was moving slow, sometimes too fast, but I think God kept us right on course.

We built the building; [World Headquarters in Costa Mesa, California USA] God gave us a wonderful image there in the building. This is a little over two years ago [in 1980], and now I'm spending a little time privately talking with God. "Where do we go from here Lord? What do we do?"

It's come to my attention that many people think we've arrived—this is it now.

What is the word I'm trying to think of? Formalized? Status quo? So, I started praying, "Lord, if this is the instrument that you're going to use..." My mind began to go in this direction, and the Lord began to direct me this way.

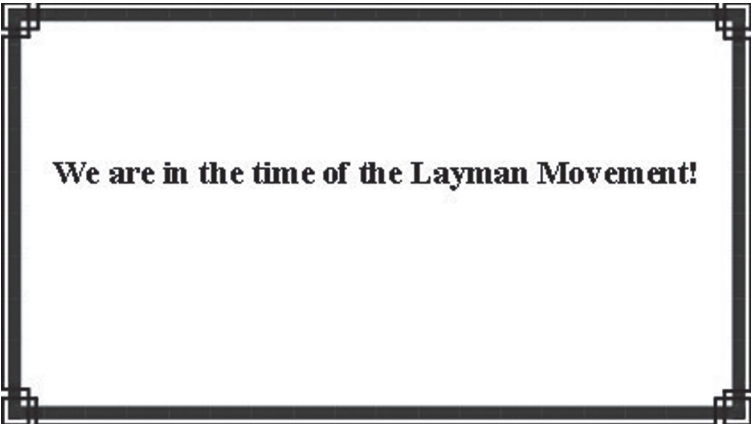
We're Very Close to the Return of Jesus

In travelling and knowing the political leaders and scientists as I do, I would sit down and talk with these men, thinking about all the trouble in the Middle East. You men know about the unrest all over the world with the anti-God element moving the way they're moving, gobbling up more and more countries. The whole world is under a tremendous pressure—it's reeling and rocking.

And one false move by any country, even a small country, could set off a chain reaction that could bring forth the revelation where it says in the Bible, "Unless I shorten that day, there'll be no flesh left" (Matthew 24:22). We're at that point, men. We're right there!

I don't have to say it. The preachers don't have to say it. The politicians and the scientists are saying that. They're saying it more loudly than we are.

They're concerned. They're worried. But I'm not worried for my body or my family, because I know that all these things are going to happen before Jesus comes. When He comes, it's going to be a glorious day. We're going to welcome him. Praise God! It's going to be a great day for us! And it's almost there.



We are in the time of the Layman Movement!

“I’m Waiting on You!”

While travelling into Asian countries like China and India and all over, I realized that there’s more than two billion people in Asia [in 1982]—half the world’s population (four billion in 2012). Not even 1% know Jesus (5% in 2012).

Just how many real born-again Christians are there?

So, I was praying about this around three o’clock in the morning in my living room, weeping before God. I said, “Lord, you’re my Father. Lord, you’re my Heavenly Father. You’re the Father of more than four billion people in this world. It is because of you that humanity is here, not because of the devil. Lord, are you going to let the devil take all your children and put them into hell for eternity?”

Then, with tears, “Lord, when are you going to bring the revival? When are you going to move? When are you going to breathe, laugh, and bring the great revival that’s going to take the whole world?”

Then, it got really quiet. I was having a real heart to heart talk. At the same time, I’m knowing that the Fellowship fits in somewhere in these last days. I know it in my spirit because as we had the convention here in Anaheim (California, USA), Brother Bob Horton was brought to the board [of directors] saying, “You know, we’ve been 30 years in the embryo, and we’re just now being born

to do what God wants us to do.” That was the theme of the whole convention last July [1982]

But this [talk with God] was even before the convention.

Then a revelation burst in my chest that was just as clear saying, “Son, I’m waiting for you! I’ve given you My Son, I’ve given you his name, I’ve given you his authority—I can’t give you any more!”

Then, He reminded me of Moses: “What do you have in your hand?”

“A rod.”

Drop it on the ground, and it becomes a snake. Pick it up, it is a rod.

With this, you are going to deliver Israel.

It only worked when he used it.

Now, He said, “I’ve given you everything I can give you: My Son, His name, and His authority.”

How many times did Jesus say to His disciples, “I give you My name; I give you my authority. All that I have, I give you, because you’re going to do more than I do.”

Over and over.

Go with what I’ve already given you.

As you do, you will see that the great end-time revival that you’ve asked me for come in around you.

Go, and the revival will come!

I’m waiting for you!

I’ve given you My Son

I’ve given you His name

I’ve given you His authority

I can’t give you any more!”

Go!

Go with what I’ve already given you!

*As you go, the revival you’ve been seeking
will come in around you!*

God is waiting on us to take what He's already given us and GO!

Every Believer...

Every man...

Every woman...

Every young person...

"As the Father sent me, so send I you!

John 20:21

You Get It By Revelation

Now, we don't understand everything at one time.

As T.L. Osborn once mentioned, "You get it by revelation."

To see the ministry that the disciples had come into fruition, it almost has to come by revelation.

It almost has to come that way so you can just begin to really understand what God will do.

You seem to understand it so well that you just go out and do it. Then, it happens. If you are spiritually dull, there's no way you're going to understand that.

You can be a Christian, you can be spirit-filled, and you can still not be able to understand the greater things because your faith can only go so far.

But as you allow your mind and heart to open, you will realize that what we're going to do now is the greatest business in the world.

Then, as you open up and have a desire to hear God and understand what he's trying to do, He will show you. Then, you will have faith. Then, you will understand.

Then, you will move out and begin to do what He's showing you. Then, He says, "Whatever you do, I'll bless you!"

Disciples: Then and Now

Now, look at the disciples: doctors, lawyers, tax collectors—they're men like we are.

We have the same emotions, same feelings, same joys, and the same hurts.

The same love that they had, we have right now.

Look at Peter: when Jesus was being tormented just before he was crucified, Peter denied Christ.

The maid said, "You're one of them." Peter said, "No I'm not!"

Someone else said, "You're one of them." Another said, "You're one of them."

He cursed to prove that he wasn't one of them.

I don't think any of us has done that. To go so far as to prove that he wasn't one of them... He was so frightened.

And yet, God takes that very man, Peter, and builds his church on him. He had walked three and a half years with Jesus and then he cursed.

In fact, when Jesus was all alone on the cross, everybody left him. They all left him.

Even His Father was silenced for a while.

But you know what?

Jesus never lost heart. He never lost faith.

Even at that final moment, he turned His head up and said, "Father, don't put this sin on them. Don't hurt them because of what they're doing to me. They don't understand what they're doing."

Now, I think of the criminal on the other side—he knew Jesus. I know he knew Him because he said, "You have the power, why don't you get us out of this?"

In today's language: "Get us out of this mess!"

He was worried about his flesh.

The other criminal also knew about Jesus.

He had to because he said, "Remember me in your kingdom."

He wasn't worried about his flesh. "Remember me in your kingdom." Jesus said, "This day thou shall be with me in Heaven."

Here are two criminals, two men that were bad, and the Savior in the middle. To think that one made it to Heaven and only the attitude of the other deprived him of Heaven. His selfishness deprived him of true salvation. He wanted to get out of that mess. He wanted to save his neck.

The other one wasn't worried about his neck; he saw something else. "Remember me in your kingdom."

Jesus said to him, "This day, you will be with me in Heaven!"

Now, thank God we're all saved here. But most of the world is not saved. And the Lord impressed upon me very strongly: "I want to bless the men."

So, I say, "I'll do it!"

I prayed about this for months and months and months. I talked to the board.

Every time we talked, the Spirit would move.

About six months ago, we called this meeting to share this with you and to explain to you where God is leading us.

Now, the disciples were men like us, and God blessed them. They prayed for 10 days.

They waited 10 days, and the Spirit of God came down... Power—tongues—interpretation—power!

They were full of power! They had fire!

And the very crowd that Peter was afraid of, he goes boldly before and says, "You have crucified Him!"

"You have done this. You have done this." "Repent!"

He did miracles! 3,000 one day.

5,000 another day.

More were saved with them than with Jesus because Jesus said, "Greater than this you shall do," and they went and did it.

They shook the whole nation and the world.

And wherever Christians have gone now, they've been a great blessing. Then, things began to die down.

Could God Use Us to Usher Jesus Back?

Do you think it's too far-fetched to think, that after all this has transpired for all these 40 years that I've seen, heard – and you've seen yourself; is it far-fetched to think, today, that we [FGBMFI] could be the disciples of Christ in the way they were?

The disciples ushered in the church age.

God has not taken away the pastors, evangelists, and teachers of today. He's simply adding a new dimension of laymen to all the outreaches of pastors and teachers; He's adding this new dimension, has added this new dimension, and I'm not going to be so foolish as to think we're the only ones.

But is it far-fetched to think that, as Jesus used the disciples to usher in the church, God would use manpower (laymen) again to usher the Son of God back into this world?

I have a feeling that we're in that time.

Now, if God is going to use men, where is He going to find men to do this? Who is willing?

You don't build something like this overnight.

We've walked this way for some 30 years now. Walking very gently, building, and inspiring men.

Here you are from the protestant churches, Catholics, or from the world of unbelief—here they come.

Businessmen.

You've heard Lee Buck tell about the wealthiest men in the world—they were there opening their hearts to Jesus.

30 years ago, you couldn't drag them in. They didn't want to come.

But here they come now!

The Miracles of Jesus Have Returned!

It is possible that we can get so inspired, so full of God's Spirit, that we will be motivated enough to say, "I'm ready! Lord, I'm ready! I believe this is true!"

Not to get fanatical. I look at Jesus.

He was and is very gentle.

You see Him walking in Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, on the coast, gently talking to the people.

He sees a blind person and heals that blindness. He sees a deafness, and He heals that deafness.

A cripple laying there, He heals that.

He was always just very gently going about—he didn't struggle, scream, or anything. About the loudest he screamed was when he commanded, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Lazarus came forth.

All these wonderful things He did, you can do it, too.

Dr. Price said, "When the laymen come to that place to do what Jesus did, it's going to be in the newspapers, radio—it's going to be plastered all over the world. The newspeople are going to wonder, *What's happening?*"

The miracles of Jesus have returned!

The supernatural signs and wonders have returned!

Jesus is assembling the greatest company of harvesters ever seen in the earth. Under His Lordship, they will invade every corner of the world to take His love and redemption to every living person.

As the prophet Joel revealed 800 years B.C. these laymen will take the Gospel to all flesh and whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!

(Joel 2:28-32)

This laymen movement began on the day of Pentecost 33AD and has been growing in number ever since!

(Acts 1:8-4:37)

Signs, Wonders, and Miracles Are for Today!

Just last month, I got a magazine called *Christian Life* in my hands. Now here we are, five months before, calling this meeting to inspire you men to get a direction from God, and here comes this magazine for the first time. Almost every page talks about signs, wonders, and miracles.

This is Bob Walker, a good friend of ours. It's an evangelical paper, not Pentecostal or Charismatic. It's an influential paper. But more than that—it includes the Fuller Theological Seminary, one of the most renowned seminaries of the world. There's a Dr. Wagner, who has a class on church growth. They bring all these theologians in and train them. That's one of the classes.

So, the Asians and the Africans kept coming and said, "Wait a minute." These are the intellectuals that are coming for four years or whatever it takes to get their degrees.

They said, "If we want church growth, we just pray for one person that can't walk or see, God does a miracle, and the next day, we have 1,000 in our congregation."

They kept bringing this to the professor, and so it finally sunk in a year or two ago and he thought of something. A university should be open-minded. Many of our greatest discoveries come from universities, whether it's agriculture or dairy farming or whatever. That's where it comes from; a lot of it.

So, he went to the president of the college and poured out his heart. "This is what they're saying... I would like to conduct an experiment. What kind of experiment? I would like to do exactly what the Bible tells us to do.

We have closed our minds. The church theologians across the world have all closed their minds. They want nothing to do with it. But I would like to run an experiment." The president said all right, and they gave out the guidelines.

The Bible was the guideline—not do anything but what the Bible says. Then, he started.

He began to read and bring out these truths according to the Bible. Then they put them to the test.

They brought the sick, students, or whoever in.

They laid hands on them, and to their surprise, it happened just like the Bible said—they got healed!

Today, it's the largest class in the Fuller Theological Seminary.

So Wagner went to a little town called La Habra, not too far from where I live, and started a church. In a short time, they had over 3,000 members.

This is being noised abroad now—that signs, wonders, and miracles are real!

So now, for the first time in the month of October, this magazine that is respected and the college that is respected by the theologians all over the world both come out saying,

“Signs, wonders, and miracles are for today!”

Praise God!

The Charismatic Renewal

This nothing new to you and I. We've known this all the time. But God has taken this Fellowship and helped bring the Charismatic Movement in large measure. The other day, Ray Bullard called me and said, "Demos, they just called me from Notre Dame; this year there are more than 70 million Catholics that have now had the Charismatic experience."

It started right through the Full Gospel Businessmen.

God has used this Fellowship in a wonderful way. I've prayed much about this, and I feel that this is right on us.

What a place... What a time...

What a time—the same month we're meeting, and here comes this magazine and the Fuller Theological Seminary. It opens the door to all the universities and all the evangelical churches. They're going to say, "Let's try it," and the Full Gospel Businessmen, the laymen, are going to be anointed. You are anointed!

You are already anointed. You already have the ability.

You have already been instructed.

You're just not doing it.

It's there!

**God used FGBMFI as His instrument to release
the Charismatic Renewal among the traditional
Catholic and Protestant churches.**

**The Holy Spirit is also moving in the Christian
Universities and evangelical churches.**

**God wants to use FGBMFI to bring *ALL*
Christians into the FIRE of the Holy Spirit so
they can participate in the End-Time Harvest!**

Just like Jesus!

The Potential

David Keltner walked into a meeting 10 or 12 years ago. I didn't know him. He was crushed and four men got killed while two or three got their heads cut off in an accident. I didn't know this man. Five years after that meeting, Jim Bakker (a Christian television host who had been invited to our New York City convention of 5,000 people) called me and said, "Call David Keltner and give him five minutes before I speak."

So, David spoke at that convention and said, "Five years ago, I was at the White House Inn at Charlotte, North Carolina. There were about 2,000 people there. My grandmother told me to go there and I don't know why, but I went. Then, all of a sudden, I'm standing in front of Demos Shakarian. Demos asked me what my problem was. I said, 'My foot.'"

The platform was jammed with people—you could hardly move. I grabbed a chair and told David to sit down. This was the last thing I was going to pray for, and I said, "Lord, let this one more miracle be."

I took that ugly, swollen foot with two and a half inches of built-up leather, and all of a sudden I just said, "Jesus!" That leg turned around, straightened out, the swelling went down, and the leather shot out.

David said, "My foot was short two and a half inches in this shoe with extra leather. I'm sitting there with brother Shakarian holding my foot and all I heard him say softly was, 'Jesus!' That's the only thing I remember him saying, is 'Jesus!'"

"Then suddenly, my leg turned and straightened out. I stood up to walk away, and I began to fall so I grabbed the chair to sit down. Then I took my shoes and socks off. Before I could get out of that building, I was so scared, so frightened, that my whole body was in convulsion. I was shaking all over. I went outside. I went a block away to a bar that I knew was there and I got drunk so I could

get on home. I couldn't walk because I was so frightened. Why? Because I didn't believe in Jesus; I didn't believe in God; I didn't believe in nothing. And all he [Demos] said was "Jesus," and I'm healed!"

That bothered me. Lord, why do you heal a man like that but you don't always heal Christians? I was shaking when David shared that testimony. I didn't understand that myself. Kinda bothered me. Then, I realized (as I read the Bible) that most everyone Jesus healed were not Christians. He said, "Go and sin no more."

Since then, David Keltner became Jim Bakker's #1 man.

Today, Russ Bixler heads for Channel 40 TV. I helped him on that station before. He visited a Full Gospel Business Men's chapter and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fell in love with the Fellowship. Now, David Keltner is his vice president and general manager, with Bixler being the president.

We went down there about eight months ago and sat down with Russ Bixler and David Keltner and Dave's brother. We sat there for two and a half hours just talking about this miracle. I saw Dave at the Man of the Year awards just a few days ago and he said, "Demos, we've played that interview over 15 times. Every month we play it more than once and every time we play it the same thing happens: It shakes the whole city. That miracle!"

So, I was talking to David and I said, "God is showing me something about signs, wonders, and miracles."

David responded, "Wow! Come to Pittsburgh and get ahold of those 30 chapters, get the men together, and we'll give you the station. Come there and get the biggest ballroom you can get and let the businessmen begin to pray for the sick and see the signs are happening. Come! Come!"

The Last Day disciples will be Harvest workers, ministering healing, deliverance, prophecy, testimonies, mercy ministries, and reconciliation with God under the Lord of the Harvest:

Jesus Christ

God wants FGBMFI to awaken laymen— the sleeping giant of evangelism, train them for the harvest field and send them forth into the earth!

FGBMFI is a prophetic sign of the times. The fact that God brought us into the earth at this time (Kairos - God's time) confirms that Jesus is at the door, ready to return.

It is not a question of whether or not we harvest - it is God's time to harvest!

One Million Members

We're at that point. We're at that place. Do we do it, or do we not do it? Do we go to sleep, or shall we charge forward?

That's where we're at—that's what it's all about.

I can say a lot more, but I don't really want to say any more than what I've already said tonight. We have all day tomorrow. God can talk to us. God can talk to you—to me.

You see, I can't do it. This was such an important matter that it was worth calling the leaders from all over the world to sit here and let God talk to us together and do it together. I really believe that this is the hour, this is the time, and this is where the new surge is going to come...

You see, we've been training the men for 30 years. You've been training men. You're leaders. You've been gathering them in and now it's time to put them to work.

I was praying just a few months ago, and as clear as a bell, I heard God say, "I want you to raise an army of one million men that will go to the highways and the byways and begin to do what I want them to do." It's just as simple as that, it'll happen.

If we go in a doldrum way, just going like we're going, it's wonderful—but do we want to move in a new dimension now?



A NEW WAVE OF REVIVAL

**The
VISION
Intensified**

DEMOS SHAKARIAN

Foreword to this reprint edition of

The VISION Intensified



United in Spirit and in the Vision

Millions of lives have been impacted worldwide through groups of ordinary Christian laymen that were inspired by a God-given vision originally imparted to Demos Shakarian (pictured here), a Christian businessman of Armenian origin.

It has been said that the global ministry that Demos founded and described in the popular book *The Happiest People on Earth* has probably done more to bring revival to the church at large than any other laymen's movement in the past 50 years.

The original edition of *The Vision Intensified* was written in 1983, and it was a plea to all who were familiar with the God-given vision (as outlined initially in *The Happiest People on Earth*) to get



ready for what Demos called “a new wave of revival” that would explode within the body of Christ.

In this booklet, he predicted that the original vision he saw “will intensify in an increasingly powerful wave of His glory!” Demos also implores his readers to re-focus on that original call, especially as many believers sense, as Demos did, that we are in the end times.

In both his books, Demos emphasized that the vision was not for a big, centralized organization. As the writer says in *The Happiest People on Earth*, “...the Spirit of God conveyed to Demos the message, ‘I do not want a big centralized organization... of course, come together on occasion to inspire and encourage each other, to light a fire bright enough for many to see. But for your day-in, year-out work, I want you [to be] small, local, [and] sensitive to Me. I do not want uniformity. I will never come to two men or two places in just the same way. Give Me outlets for My infinite variety.’”

In keeping with that exhortation, may we today be encouraged to share in Demos’s heart-felt prayer on the last page of this booklet, and reflect positively on lessons learned from the past for the achievement of God’s purposes for FGBMFI in the future.

Following the introduction by Demos on the facing page, this booklet is divided into three sections:

Section 1, pages 6–13.....**Explosive Holy Spirit Power**

Section 2, pages 13–18...**A New Wave of Revival**

Section 3, pages 19–22...**The Vision Intensifies**

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Introduction

by Demos Shakarian

*Founder of the Full Gospel Business Men's
Fellowship International*

My dear partner,

The breakthrough revelations I'm about to share with you can change your life and literally change the spiritual face of our world if you allow the Holy Spirit to plant these truths deep into your spirit.

You see, God has shown me that He is going to have a people—a powerful people—willing to participate in this final hour of end-time spiritual history.

If you desire to experience this new dimension, this new anointing from God, then you've got to be ready. That's why I've written this book.

God has shown me the future and has revealed that a new wave of revival is about to explode within the body of Christ. The powerful miracle vision God gave me for the Fellowship and the world is not over—it has just begun!

We haven't seen anything yet! God's vision will intensify in an increasingly powerful wave of His glory!

These are not mere words I am writing. They are revelations from God! Heed them.

Pray over them. Let God witness their truth in your spirit.

This is a special day, and God is seeking special people. As your spiritual leader, I prayerfully admonish you not to take the words on these pages lightly. They are not my words; they come from the very throne room of God.

I've been fasting and praying, seeking God's face. The revelations I am sharing with you now are His words. Beloved, I pray you will open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to perform spiritual surgery on your spirit today. God is seeking a prepared people to serve Him in power.

I believe you want to be one of these servants.

In His End-time Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Demos".

SECTION ONE

Explosive Holy Spirit Power!

To fully grasp the spiritual dynamics of what God is going to do in the future during this end-time hour, it is absolutely vital that you first spiritually understand what God has already done through our Fellowship in the explosive power of His Holy Spirit.

Of course, you probably know many of the details about the birth of the FGBMFI vision. But, in my spirit, God has shown me that many have missed or have forgotten the true spiritual roots of our first successes.

It was through His Holy Spirit that God released His power in a miraculous way to put the FGBMFI vision in motion.

And it is only through that same Holy Spirit that God will take us powerfully into the future.

Our careful planning will not change the world.

Our well-structured, worldwide organization will not save one soul.

All of our meetings, conventions, seminars, and money mean nothing without the power of the Holy Spirit!

We must once again become yielded, obedient, and prepared vessels, willing to seek God in prayer and fasting and willing to do what He wants us to do.

It is through my own prayer and fasting that God has led me to write this book for you today. He told me, “Demos, take the Fellowship back to their spiritual roots. Lead these men in a new wave of revival.”

God has revealed to me that, in this book, I must re-tell our original FGBMFI vision. He has shown me that most men know the facts of the vision, but that few understand the spirit of those original sacred times. No matter how many times you have heard or read about our humble beginnings...

Do not skip one word of this revelation! You have never heard it like this before!

So now, in obedience to God, let me share God’s vision once again, but with a very specific spiritual eye focusing on what God is going to do in the future!

Let the Holy Spirit witness to you the total power of this God-given vision, and let God pour upon you a new anointing for His service.

The first time I really shared the FGBMFI concept was with my friend, the healing evangelist Oral Roberts, in the fall of 1951.

“It’s a group—a group of men. Not exceptional men. Just average businesspeople who know the Lord and love Him but haven’t known how to show it.”

“And what will this group do?” Oral asked.

“They will tell other men about Jesus, Oral. No theories. They tell what they’ve experienced of God to other men like themselves; men who might not believe what a preacher says, but who will listen to a plumber or a dentist or a salesman because they’re plumbers and dentists and salesmen themselves.”

Oral was excited. “Demos, I hear it, brother! What are you going to call yourselves?”

I knew that answer right away. “The Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International.”

Every word was necessary.

Full Gospel: Miracle healings. Speaking in tongues. Powerful deliverances. Men who could talk about God, but also men who knew how to demonstrate the power of God in their lives and in the meetings. This would be an explosive ministry led by Spirit-filled men.

Business Men: Laymen. Ordinary people becoming extraordinary through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fellowship: A group of people who love to get together and witness the love, the compassion, and the reality of Jesus Christ.

International: The whole world. All flesh. A deep concern for every nation and every race.

Oral Roberts was so excited about the concept that he offered to help launch our first meeting. And so, it was settled.

The meeting was scheduled for the upper room of Clifton's Cafeteria at Broadway and Seventh in Los Angeles.

I expected three or four hundred men.

Eighteen came. So, with my wife Rose, Oral, and me, the small meeting of 21 people began and progressed very slowly. I saw little excitement in the men's faces as I described an organization with "...no church organs, no stained glass.

Nothing that man can pigeonhole as 'religious.' Just one man telling another about Jesus."

Then, Oral Roberts spoke for about 20 minutes. In his closing prayer, he said, "Lord Jesus, let this Fellowship grow in Your strength alone. Send it marching in Your power across the nation—across the world. We give You thanks right now, Lord Jesus, that we see a little group of people in a cafeteria, but that You see a thousand chapters!"

The little group suddenly came alive. We saw an adventure: how exciting it would be to watch the Spirit build this all-but-empty room into a worldwide army of a thousand different companies!

We began to march and sing the old hymn, *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Legally, the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International began a few weeks later with the signing of the articles of incorporation and the naming of a five-man board of directors.

Spiritually, it received a boost when Oral Roberts shared his dream of a thousand with 20 other servants of the Lord.

What followed that meeting was 12 months of the most incredible frustration I have ever experienced. The meetings continued, but with no steady growth pattern.

Resistance to FGBMFI came from unexpected sources. Churches were afraid I would drain men and money from their congregations. Yet, from the beginning, I emphasized two principles in every meeting I held:

1. **STAY IN YOUR CHURCH.** If your church knows the power of the Holy Spirit, go back determined to serve Him harder than ever. If not, then go back to your church as a Spirit-filled missionary.
2. **YOUR TITHE BELONGS TO YOUR HOME CHURCH.** Anything given at meetings must be above and beyond your tithe.

The money charge from the churches was particularly ironic, since we received no donations the entire first year!

August passed us by. Then, in September, we continued to meet each Saturday morning at Clifton's Cafeteria, and the same little group of men came—more out of loyalty to me, I suspect, than for any other reason.

In October, the first anniversary of the FGBMFI came and went, and not one man had yet been impressed enough to start a second chapter in a different town.

"If God is in something, He blesses it, doesn't He?" my wife, Rose, lovingly asked me in December. "And you just can't say the Fellowship's been blessed."

She was right. So, a few days later, I told the evangelist Tommy Hicks (a guest in my home), “Tomorrow morning is the last meeting of the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship.”

That was on Friday, December 26th, 1952.

After 14 months of meetings and thousands of miles of travel, phone calls, letters, “free breakfast” adverts to entice men to attend, and 100 percent of my energy, the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship seemed dead. Our most recent Saturday morning meeting at Clifton’s Cafeteria on December 20 had six fewer men attending than when I had started the Fellowship 14 months before!

Nothing man could do made any difference! No amount of careful planning, enticements, or even personal effort could launch this Fellowship.

And today, no amount of organization, money, or personal efforts will preserve it!

Only God and the power of His Holy Spirit can make the Fellowship alive and vital.

On that lonely Friday evening, just before midnight, I told Tommy and my wife, “I’m going into the living room to get down on my knees until I hear from the Lord about this.”

When I started to walk into the living room, it happened. The air around me became heavy. Overwhelmed, I fell on my knees, then my face, and stretched full length on the floor. I knew God’s Spirit was upon me, pulsating through the room in endless waves of power.

Time seemed to stop.

My sense of place disappeared.

Then, I heard His voice: “Demos, will you ever doubt My power?”

Those seven miracle words instantly made me realize how I had acted these past fourteen months. I’d acted as if *my strength* was the Fellowship’s hope. What a fool I had been! Nothing man can do, or will ever do, will ever make a second of difference in eternity unless

it is energized by the power of God. “Lord Jesus, forgive me!” I sobbed.

He continued: “I am the One, Demos, Who alone can open doors. I am the One who removes the beam from unseeing eyes.”

In those early months, I kept on looking to other men for answers. Whenever I’d meet another businessman or a political official, I used to think, “This man can help me launch the Fellowship.” God, in His loving way, was once again reminding me that He alone is our source.

“I understand, Lord Jesus. And I thank you.”

“And now,” He replied, “I will let you see, indeed.”

With that, the Lord allowed me to rise to my knees. It felt almost as though the power which put me on the floor was now pushing me up. At that moment, Rose came into the room and did not say a word, but walked over to our Hammond organ and began to play.

The music swelled. The atmosphere grew bright. The ceiling of our room seemed to disappear. Instead, I found myself rising into the sky—a daytime sky, although outside it was dark.

How long Rose played and how long I gazed at the sky, I simply don’t know. But all at once Rose stopped playing, and began to pray aloud in tongues: “My son, I knew you before you were born. I have guided you every step of the way. Now I am going to show you the purpose of your life .”

As Rose spoke, I felt as if I were leaving my body—moving up, away from the living room. Down below me, I could see the rooftops of the city of Downey, then the San Bernardino Mountains and the Pacific coast. I was high above the Earth, able to see the entire country from west to east.

I saw people on Earth—millions and millions of them, standing shoulder to shoulder. And I could see the tiny details of thousands and thousands of faces. What I saw in them terrified me.

The faces were set, lifeless, and miserable. Though the people stood close together, shoulders touching, there was no real contact

between them—they were alone, their hands bound in chains. Their heads were boxed, and their eyes stared straight ahead—unblinking, unseeing. They appeared cold, almost as if they were encased in ice from a winter storm.

With a shudder of horror, I realized that they were dead. Then, the vision changed.

Whether the world was turning or whether I was traveling around it, I did not know. But now, beneath me was the continent of South America. Then Africa. Europe. Asia. Once more, the startling close-ups occurred, and everywhere it was the same.

Brown faces. Black faces. White faces. Every one rigid and wretched, each bound in chains, locked in their own private death.

“Lord,” I cried, “What’s the matter with them? Lord, help them!”

Afterward, Rose told me that I said nothing. But in the vision, it seemed to me that I wept and pleaded aloud.

Suddenly, Rose began to speak. Humanly speaking, of course, she had no way of knowing that I was seeing anything at all. But what she said through the Spirit was, “My son, what you see next is going to happen very soon.”

The Earth was turning (or I was moving around it) a second time. Below me again were millions and millions of men. But this time, there was a difference.

The ice had melted and the chains had been broken!

Eyes shone with joy. The once bound hands, now free, were lifted towards heaven! These men who had been so isolated, each in his prison of self, were no longer alone; they were now linked in a community of love and adoration.

Asia, Africa, America—everywhere death had turned to life. The bondage had been broken!

And then, the vision was over. It was 3:30 in the morning.

When I described my vision to Rose, she listened with tears glistening in her eyes. “Oh, Demos, don’t you see? He’s showing us that the Fellowship is to go on.”

The next morning, Miner Arganbright (who only a week ago had advised me to end FGBMFI) presented me with a check for the Fellowship for \$1,000!

“A thousand dollars!” I said. “But, Miner, last week you didn’t think the organization was worth five cents.”

“Last week was last week,” Miner said. “Demos, I woke up early this morning and I heard a voice. It was God! I know it was God. He said, ‘This work is to go around the world and you’re to donate the first money.’”

I was in shock. All my efforts had not produced a single donation in an entire year, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, I was staring at a \$1,000 check in disbelief.

Then, another fellow approached me.

“Mr. Shakarian,” he said, “My name is Thomas Nickel. Something happened to me last night that I think you’ll be interested in.”

After coming home from working on his printing press, at precisely midnight (when my own vision from God had started), the Holy Spirit woke him and said, “Get in your car and drive to Los Angeles for the Saturday morning meeting of that group you’ve attended once.”

Watsonville, a city in Santa Cruz County, California, was 400 miles north of Los Angeles; he drove all night to make the meeting. Here he was now, standing in front of me. Mr. Nickel told me he was here “...to offer you my printing press and my services.”

“Your press?”

“To produce a magazine,” Nickel replied. “You see, what the Spirit kept telling me was, ‘This Fellowship must go around the world, but it’s never going to get started without a voice.’”

The meeting that morning was the most joyful we had had up to that time. Before it was over, Thomas R. Nickel was appointed as the editor and publisher of a new magazine that was to be called the Full Gospel Business Men’s *VOICE*.

Just one day earlier, it had seemed clear that the Fellowship was finished. Now, we had a thousand-dollar treasury and a magazine!

I told Rose, “I can’t wait to see what the Lord will do next!” You see, the Fellowship did not grow through *my* ability. Our spiritual roots and our power come only from one source, and that is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Without God’s anointing and power, the Fellowship would have died.

By the summer of 1953, we had nine chapters and were planning a national convention in October—exactly two years from the first meeting in Clifton’s Cafeteria.

Six hundred people showed up for that first convention. By the mid-1980s, a national convention could attract up to 10,000!

In those early days, the Saturday meetings at Clifton’s were literally bursting at the seams. The upper room could only seat 400, yet we were starting to have 600 or 700 men at each meeting. These increases were *not* because Demos Shakarian suddenly became a great preacher or a great motivator of men.

The Fellowship grew because I was open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

When God put it on my heart to encourage men to start chapters in their own local cities, I obeyed.

The Spirit seemed to say, “I do not want a big, centralized organization.

Come together on occasion as a collective group to inspire and encourage each other—to light a fire bright enough for many to see.

“But as for your day-in, year-out work, I want you small, local, and sensitive to me! I do not want uniformity. I will never take two men or two places in just the same way. Give Me outlets for My infinite variety.”

So the Clifton’s Cafeteria meetings became four groups, then five, then ten. Chapters sprang up all over Los Angeles. By 1982,

there were 60 chapters in that city area alone and 3,000 chapters worldwide.

Some of these chapters are demonstrative, some reserved. Some emphasize teaching; others healing, evangelism, and youth work. But none would have existed without that first year of struggle or without the power of God.

A divine pattern began to emerge.

1. God does not need large numbers to launch His Work! He only needs a faithful few in each place.
2. God does not look at the circumstances and see the empty seats in a meeting. God only looks at the men who come. He seeks open vessels, willing to praise Him and seek His will.
3. Every chapter and every meeting is different. Let the Holy Spirit control the meeting. Be open to the Holy Spirit!

Time and time again, the Lord seemed to be saying to us, “Don’t worry about numbers. I’ll find the people I want, wherever they are, and I’ll bring them to you. Do your part faithfully, and leave the rest to me.”

From these humble beginnings—and through the power of God alone—FGBMFI has become an anointed vessel.

I have seen, for example, a Spirit transformation in Lutheran congregations from coast to coast. I’ve watched Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics, and Episcopalians experience the Spirit blowing through whole churches and entire denominations.

But beloved, God wants you to know we haven’t seen anything yet!

Today, we are the largest lay ministry of our type in the world! The vision God revealed to me in 1952 is being fulfilled, but it is not over!

God showed me lonely people in chains. Let’s take our blind-folds off!

Even in our own Fellowship today, there are still men and women who feel alone, and who are still bound by invisible spiritual chains. All over our massive world, depression, suicide, and isolationism are staggering problems.

Our work is not over—it is just beginning!

Our vision is not in the past—it is in the future!

Two and a half billion people have not even heard the name of Jesus Christ once!

We are not done. Hear me on this. God has revealed this as clearly to me now as He did in that original vision in 1952.

The Lord God Jehovah is ready to explode a new wave of revival in this world, and He wants you to be prepared to participate in His plan.

SECTION TWO

A New Wave of Revival

FGBMFI is now around the world. When this booklet was first printed, there were local chapters in 93 countries.

More than 70 million Catholics now speak in tongues, and the roots of that spiritual manifestation can be traced back to our chapter in South Bend, Indiana.

At a New Orleans Charismatic convention (a convocation representing virtually every major charismatic movement in the entire world), they presented me with a beautiful plaque. In the presentation, this statement was made: “The Full Gospel Business Men have been the thread going through the charismatic movements all over the world.”

When I received that honor on behalf of all the members of FGBMFI, I asked this question to that convention: “Who wants to know the new wave?”

Everybody waved their hands, anxious to hear about the new wave. So, I shared from my heart what God has been speaking to me.

“I see a new wave of holiness.”

The room became quiet. Holiness is not a popular subject, even in religious circles. I said, “I see a new wave of repentance.”

You could sense men squirming in their seats. “Repentance is a good theme for gospel rallies.” I could imagine them thinking, *But we are spiritual leaders.*

Well, God told me to share what He had placed on my heart, so I continued: “I see a time when God will set us apart, and release a new, mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit. It is time to give the devil a few more black eyes. I tell you, Jesus is more real to me today than He’s ever been before!”

Now *that* got a reaction! The crowd rose to their feet in praise of God, and the meeting eventually ended. Later, I realized that these men and women were honoring us for what God has done through our lives. I praise God for that.

I thank God for every man, woman, and child who has been somehow touched by God’s love, God’s forgiveness, and God’s saving grace through this Fellowship.

But in this time and in this hour, that’s not enough!

It is time to get our eyes off of the past! It is time to stop talking about how much we have accomplished and start prayerfully seeking God about what He wants to do now and what He wants for the future!

When Jacob was out praying in the desert, he went to sleep, using stones for a pillow. The Lord gave Jacob a vision. “*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder was set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.*

“*And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, ‘I am the Lord God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will I give to you and your descendants.*

“*Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east, to the north, and to the south: and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed”* (Genesis 28:12-14).

Jacob received a powerful, life-changing vision from God. Through no power of his own, Jacob received God's anointing to fulfil the vision through his life. Nothing Jacob could do would further the vision, and nothing any other man could do would stop it.

When Jacob worked for Laban—probably the most unfair boss in recorded Biblical history—God saw to it that Jacob prevailed and prospered!

Jacob told Rachel and Leah one day: “Your father, Laban, has deceived me and changed my wages ten times; but God did not allow him to hurt me. If Laban said thus: ‘The speckled [animals] shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore speckled [ones]. And if he said thus, ‘The streaked [animals] shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked [ones]’. So God has taken away the livestock of your father, Laban, and given them to me” (Genesis 31:7-9).

You see, no matter what man does, God's plan will be fulfilled!

In many ways, I feel my life has been very much like Jacob's. God has given me a vision for hundreds of millions of faces and told me that “...all the families of the earth” are going to be blessed by FGBMFI in these end times.

And what God has already done seems very great indeed. Around 70 million Catholics—all Spirit-filled and speaking in tongues—is a very large accomplishment. We are thankful to God that He has used FGBMFI as the spiritual seed for this miracle.

But we also need to face a stark reality: 70 million Spirit-filled Catholics constitute only 1.5 percent of the world's population.

Like Jacob, God showed me the world—not just 1.5 percent of it! The vision has just begun!

Now, notice a very significant spiritual truth in Jacob's vision: He could accomplish nothing by himself!

God sent angels up and down the heavenly ladder to minister. God sent His angels to change Laban's cattle from speckled to streaked and gray-spotted!

Today, His Spirit is once again moving in a mighty way. That heavenly ladder Jacob saw is now replaced by the cross of Jesus Christ, but that wooden cross still stretches all the way to heaven.

God once again is sending His ministering angels up and down that cross to enable us to accomplish His end-time purpose.

A new wave of revival is coming!

The Lord is saying to me, “Demos, get My people ready. I want to send great signs, great wonders, and great miracles upon the earth. So, get them ready.”

As powerful as the move of God has been upon my life, I want you to know I’ve seen more miracles lately than I’ve seen in my entire life!

God will not wait another minute.

What He is going to do, He must do now.

On a trip to Asia, I saw millions upon millions of people still in bondage to the devil. They were part of the two and a half billion who have not yet heard the gospel. The thought of more than two billion souls going to hell made me cry. I prayed, “Lord, when are you going to move? When are you going to do something?”

As I prayed, He told me, “Son, I’m waiting for you.”

“For me, Lord?” I asked, “I don’t understand that. How are you waiting for me?”

I thought I was already doing what God wanted me to do, so His statement really shook my spirit. It just seemed there was nothing left I could do.

“Son, I gave you my Son, I gave you My authority. I have given you My ability. I have given you everything I can give you. I can’t give you any more. Go. Do.”

Well, that’s all I needed to hear! So, I began to pray.

For two years I’ve been crying, day and night, asking God to release a move of His Spirit like He did in the days of Clifton’s Cafeteria. That building was so packed that the fire department

came by and told the cafeteria owners to cancel the meetings—there were too many people cramming into that upper room to praise God!

Today, people need to know the reality of Jesus. Men and women are still alone—bound in spiritual chains. They are hungry for food they have never tasted. They are thirsty for living waters they have never experienced.

Beloved, they are searching for an experience from God.

And He has an endless supply of food, water, clothing, compassion, and love.

He only needs vessels who are prepared and willing to obey to set these spiritual captives free! He is not looking for our clever ability, our worldwide organization, or our method of approach to taking the world.

He only needs our willingness to hear and obey His will. The Holy Spirit will supply all the rest.

Those are the spiritual roots that launched this Fellowship, and that's the spiritual truth that will take us into the future.

When Moses was given the vision to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, he stood before a burning bush on holy ground. God told Moses, *“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt”* (Exodus 3:10).

Moses reacted to this challenge in much the same manner as I did in my living room, when I was flat on my face in God's presence. Moses said, *“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”* (Exodus 3:11).

God tried to reassure and instruct Moses on the proper way to approach the people of Israel with this new commission, but Moses insisted upon a sign.

That's when God presented Him with the miraculous rod. But that wasn't enough.

Moses still wanted more.

He explained to God that he had poor diction, so could God help him out? *“And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses...”* (Exodus 4:14).

Yet, despite His anger, God still gave Aaron to Moses to serve as a spokesman. Finally, Moses figured he had enough ammunition and went forth to obey God!

Do you see what it took for God to get Moses to obey? I must confess to you that I too have used some of those same arguments when God started challenging me in these past few years to increase and intensify my service as a spiritual leader in His new wave of revival. “But Lord, I’m getting too old.”

“Moses was 80, and Aaron was 83 when I used them.”

“But Lord, no one will believe the vision is just starting to unfold. Charismatic leaders around the world see FGBMFI as established. Organized. Completed.”

“Demos, my son, we’re just getting started!”

Finally, like Moses, I said, “I understand! I yield... I obey.”

Today is today. Today is *the* day. Yesterday is over!

Everything that has gone before is done, and everything that is to come depends solely on our obedience to God. The foundation is ready.

I am ready.

We already have hundreds of thousands of laymen around the world ready to go.

It is time to move. Come, follow me into the Promised Land!

It is time for us to go into the hospitals, lay hands on the sick, let God perform a miracle, and get those hospital beds empty!

That’s part of the unfolding vision. That’s part of the new wave of God’s glory, and the new wave of revival that will permeate this earth.

The fact that I’m alive and walking around is a good miracle, but it’s not enough! I’ve got to go forward and pray for others

and let them receive God's power. The mandate from God is that we break the chains of bondage in the world. Our mandate is to destroy the loneliness of isolation, and link the world to God!

So many with good hands and legs are sitting down, waiting for God to bless them. It is time to stand up, let the power of God flow through you, and revive a dying world with the message and the proof-producing power of Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ is real. He's alive. He's anointing our lives today, right now. I've seen more miracles in the last few weeks than I've seen in a long time. How will this new wave of revival unfold?

Through the power of God!

Nothing else can make it happen.

For 14 months, I vainly tried to make the FGBMFI work through my own efforts. Only after I literally fell on my face before God in prayer did the Fellowship receive life!

God took over and, in 24 hours, accomplished more than I could do in 14 months!

Our spiritual strength (and our spiritual revival) begins and ends with prayer. God is calling us back to our early spiritual roots, our early beginnings, and the core of those early spiritual roots is prayer.

We are not looking to the past for our accomplishments, but only to re-affirm our spiritual roots.

Fast and pray in your local chapters. Fast and pray for God's will in your personal life. Let the Holy Spirit quicken to your heart the next move in your area. Seek God in the middle of the night.

As your spiritual leader, that's what God has led me to do. I'm seeking God, on my face, in the middle of the night. He will have an end-time people, and those people will be ready.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me." (Revelation 3:20)

Seek God for your own life. He will come in. Call upon God to release a new wave of revival in your own life, in your own chapter, in your own convention, in every meeting.

Give time to God!

Wait upon His voice in your life, and when you hear it, then act. Go. Do.

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International must never become just "another club," "another meeting," or "another organization."

Demos Shakarian will never be satisfied to walk in the accomplishments of the past—to be honored only for what has been accomplished. There's too much work left to be done. Demos Shakarian has his eyes set on the future! And I, Demos Shakarian, want you to join me.

Seek God, obey His will, and you, too, will experience a fresh move of the Holy Spirit. When Abraham was told by God to kill his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, he was willing to obey.

"And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son" (Genesis 22:10).

Abraham knew God's voice, heard Him, and was willing to obey no matter what the cost.

As a result, God honored Abraham's obedience by giving him a vision of the heavens: *"Because you have done this thing... I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:17-18).*

When I studied that passage recently, the Holy Spirit quickened to my heart how God has used me much as He did Abraham: he birthed a vision in my heart, and for 14 months I obeyed His call, even though it appeared there was no fruit from any of my efforts.

Month after month, the FGBMFI vision seemed dead, but I knew God's voice, so I continued to obey.

Finally, God intervened. He miraculously gave the vision the power of His Holy Spirit, and in 24 hours, God accomplished more than I had in 14 months! God honors obedience, and He honors His visions.

God showed Abraham the stars and told him all the nations of the Earth would be blessed by his seed, and that vision came to pass.

When God showed me those hundreds of millions of faces all around the world rejoicing in love and adoration to the Most High, I knew then, and I know now, that it would come to pass.

But the vision has just begun. It's not finished.

It is barely starting to unfold. A new wave of revival is sweeping the Earth, and it's happening now!

SECTION THREE

The Vision Intensifies

A fresh move of the Holy Spirit is upon us! But there is a greater anointing of power and of the Holy Spirit still to come.

Step-by-step, in the coming months, I will share with you the mighty move God intends for His prepared people.

There's so much more I want to tell you, but God has not yet released me to reveal it. You must first allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you about our spiritual roots.

You must prepare yourself for the intensified vision through increased daily prayer, fasting, and by making time for God—seeking His voice.

Men, we need the power of the Holy Spirit in the chapters.

Invite the Holy Spirit to come. He'll come!

Conventions must be more open to a flow from God.

God alone can change our world. All we can do is prepare our selves to serve as God's vessels.

Join me.

Join me in reaching out to God. Together we will experience a new wave of revival. Remember, God is the One that anoints. If we are under His anointing and under the power of His Holy Spirit, then nothing can stop us.

No world is too large that we cannot link people together through the love of Jesus Christ!

No chains are so thick that we cannot break the bondage of the captives! That's the vision God gave me, and that vision is still to be fulfilled.

The vision is not complete.

The vision intensifies!

When an angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and told her that she would be the mother of Jesus, that she would conceive a child without ever knowing a man, Mary inquired how this could all happen. *"And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...'"* (Luke 1:35).

The same is true of our vision today.

God has shown me a world set free—a world where men and women are not alone, but are united in the love of Jesus Christ with their arms raised to heaven, praising and adoring Him.

And you might say, "But Demos, how can this be? The FGBMFI was a good idea, and God has blessed it. But the whole world?"

Yes, the world!

All the families of the world! Not 1.5 percent, but everyone.

The Holy Ghost shall come upon us, and the power of the Highest will overshadow all barriers, break all chains, and meet every need.

I know what a sinner with no hope looks like. Alone, ice cold, staring blankly into space. God showed me the inner souls of these tragic men, and it is a lonely, dark place to be—even in life, they are dead.

I've been to funerals where people had no hope. The widows are desperate and filled with anguish because their loved one is gone and they have no hope. They are alone.

But Jesus went into that tomb of death so that the world might have life. He brought light to a dark world. Jesus is the bright morning star that can illuminate our dark world.

In my original vision, God did not show me a large worldwide chapter headquarters. Don't misunderstand me: I am grateful for that building—we needed it, and God provided it.

But let's be honest with each other. The beautiful building was not the vision God gave to me. Building the building did not fulfil the vision—it simply provided us with another tool to minister that vision.

In my original vision, God did not show me chapters. And again, don't misunderstand me. Chapters have provided us with another way to reach out into the community with the saving message of Jesus Christ. Chapters have proven to be anointed vessels for ministering to the local community.

But beloved, the vision is *people*.

The vision is God's Holy Spirit changing lives.

The vision is God breaking the chains of the devil and setting the captives free!

Men and women who were ice cold became alive and miraculously linked in praise and adoration to God through the power of Jesus Christ!

That's the vision. And the vision intensifies.

Let's get our eyes back on Jesus. He is the source of our power. He is the source of our strength, and through Him, we should never doubt for one second that we will bring light to a dark, dank, lonely world.

Let us now unite in the Spirit.

As you will see below, I've written this prayer under the anointing of the Holy Spirit as our point of spiritual contact in this new wave of revival. May this all be for the glory of God.

I believe the Holy Spirit has witnessed to you the spiritual truth of this book and the full reality for the FGBMFI vision. Right now,

in closing, I ask you to start your preparation for the future by saying this prayer, out loud, to our Almighty God today.

“Heavenly Father,

“We thank You for all that You have done through our lives and through the ministry of the Fellowship. But whatever has been accomplished to date, we now know it is only a glimmer—a glimpse of the future, of what is still to be done through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

“Lord, we stand ready and willing to serve.

“We are willing to pray, fast, and seek Your will in our lives, no matter what the cost. You are Lord. You are our master, and it is You alone that we shall serve.

“Heavenly Father, forgive us if sometimes our eyes have focused on men, on chapters, or on buildings.

“We ask that you help us focus only on You and Your mandates for our lives. We realize You alone are our hope, and without the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing we can do will ever save one solitary soul.

“Lord, we ask that You use us as vessels to help fulfill your vision.

“Allow us to minister to those who are alone. Enable us to break the bondage of sin in the lives of our neighbors and in the lives of millions of people around the world. Help us to melt the ice cold death of Satan from lost souls and transform them into children of light through Your saving grace.

“Lord, we give You all the honor and the glory for the revelations You have shown us, and thank You, in the name of Jesus Christ, for what You are about to do to change the face of this world.

Amen.”



About the Author . . .

Demos Shakarian is pictured here with his wife, Rose. Their remarkable story and the start of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is told by John and Elizabeth Sherrill in the best-selling book, *The Happiest People on Earth*—first published in 1975, and reprinted many times since then.

Demos, born in 1913, was named after his Armenian grandfather, a Christian who fled from his Central Asian birthplace in 1905 to settle in Los Angeles, California. The family left their homeland—located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe—in response to a God-given prophecy in 1855 that spoke of an unspeakable tragedy that would come upon Armenia, where hundreds of thousands of their people would be massacred. The prophecy was later fulfilled; everyone left behind in the Shakarians' village was killed, and as many as 1.5 million people died in the regional genocide.

Leader with a Servant's Heart

Years later in America, the young Demos, son of Isaac Shakarian (by then a prosperous dairy farmer), eventually entered the family business. Their milk herd grew to become the largest in the world at that time. Demos married Rose Gabrielian in 1933.

Demos was a humble man with a servant's heart. He loved to assist some of the well-known evangelists of his day, such as Oral Roberts. When asked what he felt was his main spiritual gift, Demos replied that it was what the Bible calls "the gift of helps" —"I'm a helper. That is what God called me to do."

As a result, he saw great numbers of ordinary men released into Christian ministry, and countless lives worldwide touched by God. He wrote *The Vision Intensified* towards the end of his life. By the time he died in 1993, the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (which he founded) had expanded to 132 nations.

DIVINE LIFE BROUGHT TO THE BRANCHES FROM THE VINE

Jesus Christ is the true vine brought down from heaven and planted in the earth. He was a faithful and true witness. Nothing in Him could create a feeling of strangeness or disappointment in the heart of God. He was true to God, true to His own nature, true to His environment, and true to the sons of men. But the principal truth is that, as a vine, He is true to those who are associated with Him as branches so that they might bring forth fruit.

“He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit” (John 15:3).

“Bear much fruit, so shall you be my disciples” (John 15:8). The branch is a true disciple of the vine that bears much of the fruit of the vine. We are the true disciples of Christ when His character manifests itself in our lives. What the sap of the vine is to the branch, the Spirit of Christ is to the Christian. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc. Because the Spirit Himself is all this, when He has free access into our hearts (and full control of them), His own personal characteristics will appear as fruit in our lives.

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Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

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Introduction

Over the past several years, I have shared many of the thoughts God has put on my heart by writing a series of ministry booklets.

My first booklet, *A New Wave Of Revival... the Vision Intensified* shared how God was going to have a special people, a prepared people ready to serve Him in power, and willing to participate in this final hour of end-time spiritual history. In that booklet, I declared that God clearly was not done with Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International that He had a new wave of revival prepared for us, a revival that would sweep in miraculous waves of witnessing power all over the globe for God's glory.

That ministry booklet was written before the Berlin Wall came down, before the Iron Curtain melted, before the Eastern Bloc countries broke the shackles of communism and formed their own governments, before the new Russia under President Mikhail Gorbachev started to evolve, and before the sudden shock of the Middle East War exploded in January 1991, causing hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and billions of American dollars to be quickly dedicated to a conflict few expected to materialize even a few months earlier!

Since the publication of *A New Wave of Revival*, the Fellowship has seen the virtual explosion of new chapters in Brazil, South

America, and Europe, clearly fulfilling God's promise of a new wave of His witnessing power.

And, right at the end of 1990, we planted our first FGBMFI chapter in Armenia—an event which would have been an absolute impossibility at the time *A New Wave of Revival* was written, and an event that clearly shows the powerful role God intends for the Fellowship in the immediate future!

The next book I authored as my ministry to you was entitled *A New Wave of Revival... in Your Finances*. In that book, I specifically addressed the lack of proper biblical balance in the myriads of popular prosperity teaching that seems to ignore the vital need for a relationship with God before any of the biblical promises concerning finances would come into fruition.

I sincerely believe this book has helped many businessmen and families to understand His principles for a balanced and proper walk in the challenging area of Christian finances.

Now, more than ever, with signs of recession hitting the United States, this book is still a vital tool for anyone who wants to know what God says about the financial steps you need to take to receive all He has for your family and business, no matter how bad world circumstances might appear!

Then came *Behold the Glory of God*, declaring that a new wave of God's glory would soon sweep the Earth in this end-time hour, permeating our Fellowship meetings and conferences. When the Eastern Bloc countries literally became free in an instant, we were all reminded that nothing is too big for our God. He can overcome every situation, no matter how impossible it seems. In places where we once thought it was impossible for God's glory to shine, He is now radiating His love.

Today, God is setting the stage for a new wave of His Shekinah glory to sweep across the entire continent of Europe and the other nations of the globe! We have seen His glory through many of our

recent meetings, including our outreach to Armenia at the end of 1990.

But know this: the greatest miracle wave of God's glory is yet to come, and He can unleash it in an instant, just as He instantly transformed the Eastern Bloc countries from communism to freedom!

In my last booklet, *The Ultimate Dimension*, I shared with you who I believe God's anointed people will be in our end-time generation, how they will be prepared, and how they will walk in awesome power to manifest God's will in the final days before Jesus comes once again.

That walk seemed so magnificent—so staggering—that I called it *The Ultimate Dimension*.

Today, after continued and intensified prayer and fasting, I must confess to you that *The Ultimate Dimension* was just the beginning of a much deeper life that God has for you. *The Ultimate Dimension* set the scene and prepared the way for the book you are holding in your hands today: *Divine Life*.

This book, more than any other I have ever written, tells us how God gives us the incredible privilege of walking in a personal, intimate relationship with Him—a holy oneness with God that, once your spirit begins to comprehend it, will change the way you live and revolutionize the way you make any of your decisions.

Divine Life was birthed out of continual prayer, long-term fasting, adversity, and severe attacks in my own life, particularly over the past two or three years. By seeking God with a renewed fervor, He gave me a new peacefulness that I harbor no matter how hectic outside circumstances may seem around me.

When I had my stroke, I was searching God for many answers. When you are flat on your back, you search. It was a time when the world situation looked very bad, and frankly, it still does not look any better. I was especially concerned and burdened because we were not winning souls and getting the job done for the Lord in the dimension and scope that I had hoped we would.

One day, I was in my living room praying and crying out to God, “Lord, You promised that You would give us the power to do these things—to meet these challenges.”

In a way, I suppose you could say I was complaining to God.

“Lord, where is the power and anointing we need to do the work necessary to get the job done?”

His reply was quick, and it was the loving rebuke of a caring Father.

“Look, My son, I’ve given you everything I can give you. I have given you His authority and His anointing. There is nothing else you need to do the job. Take His authority and go forward. I have given you everything I can give you. I have given you My precious Son, and He’s given you His life. I have given you all I can. Go now, go ahead and fulfill the vision I have entrusted to you.”

From that moment of prayer and encounter with God onward, He began to birth in my heart the first steps of how to walk in His power and His authority—in His divine life.

And now, after a few more years of prayer and seeking God, this book, “Divine Life,” describes the awesome personal relationship the very God of the universe desires with us. Through this book, you will realize that God has given you a miraculous heritage of His power and authority, and He intends for you to fully use His spiritual gifts in these final hours of spiritual history.

The “Divine Life” is the biblical plan that God Himself birthed to mold you and Him into a single, holy unity!

What a sacred privilege!

I sincerely pray the message in this book greatly blesses you.

I further pray that He would, by whatever means, help those of you who are still living divided lives to see clearly how He claims you wholly for Himself, and how the whole-hearted surrender to abide in Him alone brings joy that is unspeakable.

– Demos Shakarian

THESE PRECIOUS WORDS FROM JOHN 15:1-12 ARE YOUR KEY TO DISCOVERING HOW TO WALK IN THE MIRACULOUS AND AWESOME PRIVILEGE OF DIVINE LIFE!

PLEASE READ THESE VERSES CAREFULLY SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE STARTING CHAPTER ONE.

“I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

CHAPTER ONE

THE PERSON GUARANTEEING A PROMISE GIVES THE PROMISE POWER!

If a pauper on the street came up to you and said, “Hey buddy, when I die, I am going to leave you one billion dollars in my will,” the chances are that you would smile as you walked past him and moved on, never expecting for a second that you were about to become a billionaire.

Why?

Because the man who was the source of the promise, the man standing behind the promise with his personal guarantee, did not have credibility! He was a poor man on the street wearing tattered clothes, and you have no logical reason to believe that this poor man controlled a billion-dollar fortune.

Today, many Christians unknowingly approach the awesome promises of God with the same scoffing skepticism and disbelief as they do the street pauper.

Most of us can trust in Jesus to some extent.

We anxiously look forward to His grace to pardon our sins when we fail.

Most of us can even trust God enough to hope and pray that He will be available for us with His enabling power when we desperately need His help to fix our business, to mend our family, or to save our loved ones.

But our trust in Him at this point is usually rooted in desperation—not in faith.

And most of us, in an honest attempt to walk in a less self-seeking relationship with God, consciously try to obey Him and His commandments.

But very few Christians have come to realize the full power of Christ to fulfill His promises.

We fail to grasp who stands behind the words in the Holy Bible with His personal guarantee... the very Creator of the universe who wants to bestow upon us the full power of His promises and seeks a total and complete oneness in His relationship with us.

In this book, *Divine Life*, I'd like to take you on a journey of spiritual awareness and exploration where we will search through the parable of John 15:1-12 to uncover an intimacy of fellowship with Jesus Christ that wholly includes a miracle oneness of divine life with God Himself!

To me, this powerful parable is one of the most life-changing in all of scripture! This one verse alone could produce volumes of divine revelation:

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

In this book, I'd like you to seriously consider what Christ really meant by the words "abideth in me, and I in him." After our exciting journey, I believe you will be absolutely awestruck by the world-changing potential Christ offers to you in this promise.

KNOW WHO IS MAKING THE PROMISE

Before you can appreciate the full impact of the words of Christ, I believe it is first imperative that you come to a renewed understanding of precisely Who Christ is. You must know in your heart of hearts Who is making the promises to you and Who is making the guarantee that what He says will come to pass!

Just as you cannot believe the promise of the pauper on the street because you do not have faith in his ability to deliver a billion dollars to your door, many Christians are operating in a "pauper mentality" when it comes to God. They fail to recognize the total and complete ability of God to fulfill the promises He makes!

As you discern in your spirit the full reality of who is speaking the promises to you, I believe you will be much more receptive to the promises themselves.

Who is making these awesome promises, and who desires this intimate relationship of John 15 with you?

God Himself!

The invisible God who, through the miraculous incarnation became visible through Jesus Christ, is declaring that He wants an intimate and personal relationship with you—as intimate and as closely tied together as a vine is with its branches!

To help you realize the awesome significance of the person who is making the promises to us, the Lord has led me to heighten your awareness of who Jesus is by sharing with you here who the prophets said Jesus would be, and who Jesus Himself said He was.

By doing this, I believe the Holy Spirit will build your faith in the one making the promises as you read some of the major things said about Jesus in the Holy Bible.

In this chapter, I will detail approximately ten percent of the prophecies written about Jesus in the Old Testament (there are over 200) and fulfilled in the New Testament. I pray the cumulative weight of these faith-building scriptures will be a powerful witness to both the believer and the non-believer concerning the overwhelming proof about who Jesus is!

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH

Let me first begin by sharing with you some of what the prophets said about Jesus in the Old Testament, and how those prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament.

WHAT THE PROPHETS SAID

1. HE WAS TO BE OF DAVID'S FAMILY

The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:6-7

The Fulfillment: Matthew 22:42-46

2. HE WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

The Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14

The Fulfillment: Matthew 1:23

3. HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM

The Prophecy: Micah 5:2

The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:6

4. HE WOULD SOJOURN IN EGYPT

The Prophecy: Hosea 11:1

The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:14

5. HE WOULD LIVE IN GALILEE

The Prophecy: Isaiah 9:1-2

The Fulfillment: Matthew 4:14-15

6. HE WOULD DWELL IN NAZARETH

The Prophecy: Isaiah 11:1

The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:23

7. HIS COMING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BY A HERALD

The Prophecy: Malachi 3:1

The Fulfillment: Matthew 3:3

8. HIS COMING WOULD RESULT IN THE MASSACRE OF
BETHLEHEM'S CHILDREN

The Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15

The Fulfillment: Matthew 2:18

9. HE WOULD PROCLAIM A JUBILEE TO THE WORLD

The Prophecy: Isaiah 58:6

The Fulfillment: Luke 4:17-19

10. HIS MISSION WOULD INCLUDE GENTILES

The Prophecy: Isaiah 42:1

The Fulfillment: Matthew 12:18

11. HIS MINISTRY WOULD BE ONE OF HEALING

The Prophecy: Isaiah 53:4

The Fulfillment: Matthew 8:17

12. HE WOULD TEACH BY PARABLES

The Prophecy: Psalm 78:2

The Fulfillment: Matthew 13:14

13. HE WOULD BE DISBELIEVED AND REJECTED BY THE RULERS

The Prophecy: Psalm 69:4

The Fulfillment: Luke 20:17

14. HE WOULD MAKE A TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

The Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9

The Fulfillment: John 12:13-15

15. HE WOULD BE LIKE A SMITTEN SHEPHERD

The Prophecy: Zechariah 13:7

The Fulfillment: Mark 14:27

16. JESUS WOULD BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

The Prophecy: Zechariah 11:12-13

The Fulfillment: Matthew 27:9-10

17. HE WOULD DIE WITH MALEFACTORS

The Prophecy: Isaiah 53:9

The Fulfillment: Luke 22:37

18. HE WOULD BE BURIED BY A RICH MAN

The Prophecy: Isaiah 53:9

The Fulfillment: Matthew 27:57-60

19. HE WOULD BE GIVEN VINEGAR AND GALL

The Prophecy: Psalm 69:21

The Fulfillment: John 19:28-19

20. THEY WOULD CAST LOTS FOR HIS GARMENTS

The Prophecy: Psalm 22:18

The Fulfillment: John 19:24

21. HIS DYING WORDS WERE FORETOLD

The Prophecy: Psalm 22:1

The Fulfillment: Mark 15:34

22. NOT A BONE WOULD BE BROKEN

The Prophecy: Numbers 9:12

The Fulfillment: John 19:36

23. HIS SIDE WOULD BE PIERCED

The Prophecy: Zechariah 12:10

The Fulfillment: John 19:37

24. HE WOULD RISE FROM THE DEAD THE THIRD DAY

The Prophecy: Psalm 16:1-11

The Fulfillment: Acts 2:25-32

25. HIS REJECTION WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE
DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE GREAT
TRIBULATION

The Prophecy: Daniel 9:27

The Fulfillment: Mark 13:14

OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE!

All these Old Testament prophecies and their subsequent fulfillments in New Testament scriptures clearly demonstrate that Jesus Christ was the Son of God!

Centuries before Christ was born, His birth and career as well as His sufferings and glory were all described in detail in the Old Testament. Christ is the only person ever born into this world whose ancestry, date of birth, birthplace, birth-manner, infancy, manhood, teaching, character, career, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension were all pre-written centuries before He was born!

Furthermore, there are several Old Testament prophecies which foretell His divinity: Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6; Jeremiah 33:16; and Zechariah 12:8.

Jesus Christ was both man and God—God incarnate, the Creator of all things, the Preserver of all things, and the sole giver of eternal life!

In the New Testament, it was abundantly clear from those who walked and talked with Jesus that they, too, recognized Him as the divine Son of God.

Mark called Jesus “The Son of God” (Mark 1:1), as did John (John 3:16,18), John the Baptist (John 1:34), Nathanael (John 1:49), Peter (Matthew 16:16), Martha (John 11:27), the disciples (Matthew 14:33), and Gabriel (Luke 1:32,35).

Jesus is himself called “God” (John 1:1). God Himself called Jesus His own “Beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17). Even evil spirits called Jesus “the Son of God” (Luke 4:41).

Neither Jesus himself nor the scriptures leave any possible doubt as to the nature of the person of Jesus...

He was the divine Son of God, the Creator of the universe, and He is the one making the promises for your life! Why do

non-believers make it so complicated? Why not just accept the record as it is written?

If Jesus Christ was only a good man, He can do nothing for us except set an example. If He was really God, He can be to us both a Savior *and* an example.

The amazing fact to recognize here is this: the complete story of Jesus' life, including its main features, events, and accompanying incidents even in the minutest detail, is plainly foretold in the Old Testament scriptures and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Only one man in the history of the world has ever had explicit details given beforehand of His birth, life, death, and resurrection centuries before His birth! Nowhere in any of the literature of the world, secular or religious, can we find a duplicate to the astounding miracle of the pre-written life of Christ!

NAMES AND TITLES APPLIED TO CHRIST

Let your spirit absorb the magnitude of the titles applied by scripture to Jesus Christ. He is called: The Christ, The Messiah, Savior, Redeemer, Wonderful Counsellor, Faithful Witness, the Word of God, the Truth, the Light of the World, the Way, the Good Shepherd, Mediator, Deliverer, the Great High Priest, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith, the Captain of our Salvation, our Advocate, the Son of God, the Son of Man, God, the Holy One of God, the Only Begotten Son, Mighty God, the Image of God, Everlasting Father, Lord, Lord of All, Lord of glory, Lord of Lords, Blessed and Only Potentate, King of Israel, King of Kings, Ruler of the kings of the Earth, Prince of Life, Prince of Peace, the Son of David, the Branch, David, root and offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star, Emmanuel (God with us), the Second Adam, the Lamb of God, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the

Beginning of the Creation of God, the First-Born of All Creation, the Amen.

And that same awesome and loving God is the one Who stands behind and guarantees His promises to you.

That same awesome and loving God is the one Who wants to have a divine life relationship with you and gives you the scriptural path and promises you need to follow so you can experience divine life.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and the first and the last” (Revelation 22:13).

CHAPTER TWO

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

In the last chapter, you read what others said about Jesus. To help you further visualize the power of the promises of God, let us look at what Jesus said about himself.

In the fourth chapter of John, we see Jesus going to Jacob’s well to get a drink of water. He was met there by a woman from Samaria; she was surprised He would even speak to her because *“Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans”* (John 4:9).

But Jesus said to her,

“If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10). Here, Jesus is simply telling the lady she does not realize the Who to whom she is speaking.

Jesus proves Who He is by telling her she has had five husbands. She then observes that *“I know that Messiah cometh, which*

is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things” (John 4:25).

*“Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he”
(John 4:26).*

You see how important it is to know who is speaking?

If the lady had fully grasped to Whom she was speaking from the initial moments of their encounter, she would have immediately fallen on her knees, repented of her sins, and asked for eternal life!

When you recognize the power of the person making the promises in scripture as both Jesus and God, a Creator Who has all the power in the universe to fulfill His promises in your life, then you, too, will act upon His promises with complete confidence and begin to walk in divine life.

Even if you have been a Christian for fifty or sixty years, it is still possible to become complacent and forget the spiritual significance of Who Christ is!

As you read this book, I pray the Holy Spirit helps you to recognize in a new and deeper way that Jesus Christ has both the nature of man *and* the son of God.

Recognize, receive, and believe Who is making the promises. Then, you can recognize, receive, and believe the promises themselves and start to walk in divine life and fellowship.

Intertwined intimately with the vine with branches that produce fruit.

Jesus Christ is God with us, in union with us!

To further build your faith concerning the giver of these promises in John 15, I would like to share with you some of the things Jesus said about Himself. I believe you will be spiritually overwhelmed by His own clear statements concerning His deity.

Remember, you are in Christ Jesus. Your whole Christian life depends on the clear consciousness of your position in Christ.

Your union is not only with Christ, but it is the work of God himself! If it is of God alone that you are in Christ, then God Himself—the Infinite One—becomes your security for all you need or wish in seeking to abide in Christ.

After you read these powerful passages, I pray you will be moved by the Holy Spirit to declare, “I must shout to all the Earth with renewed vigor, ‘Jesus Christ is God!’”

I pray any skeptic reading these scriptures will recognize that Jesus is God. Prophets said He would die and rise, be born of a virgin, and suffer beyond recognition.

Now, let us see what Jesus Christ had to say about Himself.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF

I AM THE TRUTH (John 14:6).

I AM THE WAY (John 14:6).

I AM THE DOOR (John 10:9).

MAN COMES TO THE FATHER BY ME (John 14:6).

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (John 6:35).

I AM THE LIFE (John 11:25).

I AM THE RESURRECTION (John 11:25).

HE THAT BELIEVES ON ME SHALL NEVER DIE—

HE HAS POWER OVER DEATH (John 11:26).

I AM THE MESSIAH (John 4:25-26). BEFORE

ABRAHAM WAS I AM (John 8:58).

HE THAT HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER
(John 14:9).

I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE (John 10:30).

ALL POWER ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN HAD
BEEN GIVEN UNTO ME (Matthew 28:18).

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF
THE WORLD (Matthew 28:20).

Who else could have said such things about himself? Who else could we say them about?

His categoric and amazing statements about Himself infuriated the rulers, and they attempted to mob Him (John 8:59). Aside from the statements on the preceding pages, Jesus made other claims about Himself and His divine origin.

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (John 8:12).

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD (John 10:11).

I AM NOT OF THIS WORLD (John 8:23).

ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY (John 8:56).

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES, HE CHALLENGED,
THEY BEAR WITNESS OF ME

(John 5:39).

THE FATHER, HE HAS BORNE WITNESS OF ME
(John 5:37).

MY WORKS BEAR WITNESS OF ME (John 5:36).

I DO WORKS THAT NO OTHER MAN DOES
(John 15:24).

BELIEVE IN ME OR DIE (John 8:24).

YOU ARE BLESSED TO SEE THESE THINGS
(Luke 10:23-24).

I AM WISER THAN SOLOMON AND GREATER
THAN JONAH (Matthew 12:41-42).

I AM OMNIPOTENT (Luke 4:39).

I AM OMNIPRESENT (Matthew 18:20).

I AM ETERNAL (John 1:1).

I AM UNCHANGEABLE (Philippians 2:6).

I AM FROM ALL ETERNITY (Hebrews 13:8).

BEFORE MY INCARNATION, I WAS IN THE FORM
OF GOD (Colossians 2:9).

DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

Through the first two chapters of this book, you have read about the genuine prophecy in the Bible that proves beyond all doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the predicted Messiah.

And, you have read that Jesus Christ Himself and those who knew Him viewed Him as both man and God.

Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, once said to Jesus:

“Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:2).

The answer Jesus gave to Nicodemus is the same answer He would give any person reading this book today.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I saw unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 4:3).

Maybe you are reading this book and you do not yet know Jesus as your personal Savior; you have not been “born again” from your old man into the divine life that God intends for you.

If that person is you, and you want to experience a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, the Bible sets out six simple steps for you to take.

THE SIX STEPS TO SALVATION

1. Acknowledge your sins.

“God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13).

2. Repent of your sins.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that you sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

3. Confess Jesus with your mouth.

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

4. Forsake your old life.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).

5. Believe His Word!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

6. Receive Him.

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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” (John 1:11,12).

If you want to take these six steps and receive Jesus into your heart right now, would you join me in the Spirit by repeating this simple prayer out loud?

“Lord God, I acknowledge that You are the true God, the Messiah spoken about by the prophets, and that through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You fulfilled all the prophecies spoken by the prophets.

“I repent of all my sins and confess them before You today. Lord, I want to give up my old ways and begin to walk in Your divine life.

“I believe You are God, that Jesus Christ is Your son and my Savior, and I ask Him now to personally enter into my heart and become a permanent part of my daily life.

“Lord, I freely receive You as my Lord, my master, my guide, my comforter, and my source of all things.

“Thank You for sending Your son to die for my sins and for becoming part of my life. From this day forward, I ask You to control my every move so that it will be in accordance with Your will. Amen.”

If you just prayed this simple but life-changing prayer and have freely accepted Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior, welcome to the Kingdom of God!

To help you grow in your understanding of all that God intends for your life, I have prepared a special booklet for you entitled *Now That You've Received Christ*.

To request your free copy, complete the form at the end of this book and we will send it to you by return mail.

“I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman”
(John 15:1).

CHAPTER THREE

THE MOST POWERFUL PARABLE AND PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE!

Imagine living in complete union with Jesus Christ—the Lord and Savior, Creator of the universe—and experiencing His daily and hourly presence and keeping!

Imagine the miracle manifestation in your life of purity and power, love and joy, and spiritual fruit!

Is it possible to walk in such a divine life?

I believe it is.

Step-by-step, I will show you how God Himself has given you a promise for divine life in John 15. Unspeakable blessings will assuredly flow from such a miraculous union.

If your current day-to-day experience with Jesus is not as strong as it was in the early days of your salvation, the reason for the vacuum and the void is simple: You have wandered away from Him.

That is not intended as a form of condemnation, but only as a statement of spiritual reality. God *never* leaves us—we leave God through our sin and lack of relationship with Him.

The blessings that Jesus Christ bestows on us are all connected with His very personal invitation to “abide in Me” and can only be experienced in close fellowship with Him.

WHAT DOES GOD INTEND?

Jesus has destined for you something better than the brief excitement of the latest charismatic meeting you attended.

He intends for your experience of His reality to be enjoyed far beyond your Sunday treks to church.

He wants more than to touch you tenderly in your times of special earnestness and prayer and then quietly pass away into the darkness of night until your next pressing need forces you to seek Him.

God himself has prepared for you an abiding dwelling with Him where your whole life and every moment of it might be spent, where the work of your daily life might be done, and where you might enjoy the privilege of unbroken communion with Him.

That is the reality of divine life.

Jesus said, “abide *in* Me,” not “abide *with* Me.” He opened His arms to press you to His heart. He is opening up a fullness of life and love offered to you in His fellowship.

Let us now examine the parable of the vine and the branches in some detail and determine from this examination what Jesus Christ really intended for us.

THE AMAZINGLY MISUNDERSTOOD PARABLE

When Jesus said, “I am the true vine,” what do you suppose He really meant?

So often we quote this famous passage from John, but I wonder in my heart how much we really understand of what God intended for us in this passage.

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:4-5).

This parable seems so simple; yet, it becomes so rich under study, and its teaching probably gives us the best and most complete illustration of the meaning of our Lord’s command and the divine life to which He invites us.

First, let us look at the vine.

In the entire plant world, there is not a specimen so specially suited to be the image of man in his relationship to God as the vine. There is no other plant where the fruit and juice are so full of spirit—so quickening and stimulating.

There is no other plant that has such a natural tendency to evil. That is, there is no other plant where the growth is so ready to run into wildwood that is utterly worthless for anything except the fire without proper care and cultivation.

Of all plants, the vine needs the unsparing and unceasing pruning knife more than any other. The vine is dependent on cultivation and training, but if it receives this, no other plant produces a richer reward to the husbandman.

If you are like most who read this parable, you think of the main stem of the vine as Jesus Christ, and then you see us, the believers, becoming the branches growing out of the stem.

He is the stem, we are the branches, right? Wrong!

That is not what the scripture says!

Jesus says, “I am the vine,” and the vine is not limited to the main stem. The main stem is part of the vine, maybe even the principal part, but that is not the entire vine.

In the vine, you also have a root system: a main stem, branches, leaves, tendrils, and fruit.

Christ said, “I am all of that—the entire vine.” He is declaring His completeness, that He is *all*.

If that is the case, where do we (the branches) come in?

Christ said: “I am everything... the main stem, the branches, the leaves, everything; you are the branches; you are part of Me. You are so closely united to Me in the essentials and entirety of life as those branches are tied in the vine, and the vine is incomplete without the branches.”

BRANCHES NEED THE VINE

The branches need the vine, and the vine needs the branches.

Do not gloss over this statement—it is vital to your understanding of divine life.

The branches cannot be functional without the vine, and the vine cannot be functional without the branches. Each is intertwined by nature with the other.

Our Lord was saying, “Apart from Me, severed from Me, cut off from Me, you can do nothing.”

THE VINE NEEDS THE BRANCHES

I believe He was also saying this rather revolutionary concept: “Apart from you, I can do nothing in this world. I must have the branches to produce fruit.”

A vine without branches can bear no fruit. No less indispensable than the vine to the branch is the branch to the vine.

That’s not heresy; that’s the way God willingly intended it!

Through the grace of Jesus, His people are dependent on Him, and He has made Himself dependent on them. Without His disciples, He cannot dispense His blessing to the world; He cannot offer sinners the grapes of the heavenly Canaan.

In modern terms, we are His hands, and He has willingly limited Himself to function on this earth through us as His hands.

It is His own appointment, and this is the high honor to which He has called His redeemed ones. As indispensable as He is to us (that from Him our fruit may be found), so indispensable are we to Him on Earth (that through us His fruit may be produced and distributed to others).

EVERYTHING FLOWS TO THE BRANCHES

The vine does not gather from the soil its fatness and sweetness for itself. All it has is at the disposal of the branches.

And Jesus, to whom we owe our life, completely gives Himself for us and to us.

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

All His fullness and all His riches are for you! For the vine does not live for itself, but exists only for the branches.

All that Jesus is in heaven, He is for us. He has no interests that are separate from ours. As our representative, He stands before the Father.

ALL THE BRANCH HAS BELONGS TO THE VINE

The branch does not exist for itself, but it exists to bear fruit that can proclaim the excellence of the vine. It has no reason for existence except to be of service to the vine.

Every power of your being, every moment of your life, every thought and feeling that you have, it all belongs to Jesus. This is so that from Him and for Him, you may bring forth precious fruit.

He realizes what the vine is to the branch and what the branch is meant to be to the vine. You have but one thing to think of and to live for, and that is the will, the glory, the work, and the kingdom of our blessed Lord—bringing forth fruit to the glory of His name.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

The purpose of the vine of branches is a single perfect union to produce fruit and fruit alone.

Do you see the incredible wonder of that?

Jesus is saying to you, “When You need Me, I am here. I am with you. I have given you My Holy Spirit to comfort you. I come to you, uniting Myself to you so completely that you shall be part of Me, and I part of you; for you abide in Me, and I in you.”

Once you understand the marvelous nature of the vine and branch relationship, then you focus on the primary purpose of the vine and the branch—to produce fruit!

In Ezekiel (Chapter 17, verses 5-10), we find a parable of the vine in which the prophet tells the men to whom he was talking that a vine has no value at all except that of bearing fruit. He tells them that the wood from the vine is no good for any purpose.

From the wood of a vine, you cannot even make a decent toothpick!

WHO IS THE KEEPER OF THE VINEYARD?

Notice that our heavenly Father is the husbandman in charge of our vineyard. The branch is as much in the charge and keeping of the husbandman as the vine; His honor is as much concerned in the well-being and growth of the branch as the vine.

The God who chose Christ to be the vine fitted Him thoroughly for the work He had to perform as vine.

The God who has chosen you and planted you in Christ has engaged to secure you, if you will but let Him by yielding yourself to Him so that in every way you will be part of Jesus Christ.

What a strong motive this is for the highest activity in the maintenance of a fruitful branch life.

You are God's workmanship created to do good works, and our heavenly Father, the husbandman, is in charge of seeing that you are properly cared for so that you can be a productive branch that bears much fruit.

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE VINE?

The teaching of Isaiah in the fifth chapter tells us that one of the fruits of the vine is righteousness.

"For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry" (Isaiah 5:7).

The fruit for which God looked for from that nation for the world (not for self-consumption) was two-fold: righteousness and judgment.

"But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness" (Isaiah 5:16).

Jesus is the vine, and through Him we shall bear the fruit for which the world waits.

You are the branches, the recognition of the true purpose for which we are members of Christ, sharing His very nature and His very life—that of fruit-bearing.

The vine parable is the figure of that perfect union. “I am the vine, everything. You are the branches, linked with Me. Severed we are useless, only fit for burning. But united, we are capable of bearing the very fruit the Father expects, and for which the world is waiting.”

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7).

CHAPTER FOUR

VINE RELATIONSHIP PRAYER

Prayer is both one of the means and one of the fruits of divine life with Christ. Ours shall be the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous man, availing much.

Such prayer is the fruit of our abiding in Him, and the means of bringing forth much fruit. Our prayer ascends as His prayer because we will pray in accordance with the will of God.

With the abiding in Christ, our own will is kept down and our thoughts and wishes are brought into captivity to the thoughts and wishes of Christ. His Holy Spirit breathes through our whole being, and without our being conscious as to how, our desires are molded into the complete conformity with the divine will, and are thus fulfilled.

Our prayers will seek only the glory of God.

If the name of Christ is to be wholly at your disposal so that you may have the full command of it for all you pray according to His will, it must be because you first put yourself wholly at His

disposal so that He has free and full command of you—your heart, mind, and spirit!

As your soul abides in Christ and grows into the consciousness of its union with Him and sees how entirely it is He who makes your petition acceptable, you dare to claim an answer because you know that you are one with Him. It was by faith you learned to abide in Him; as the fruit of that faith, you rise to an even larger faith in all that God has promised to be and to do.

THE VINE GIVES YOU REST

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

When Jesus says, “Come unto me,” I believe He is saying that we are to become His students by yielding ourselves to His training, submitting all things to His will, and letting our whole life be one with Him.

That’s precisely what the vine/branch relationship means in the parable!

When you come to Jesus and yield to Him as a branch in the vine, then you will receive the deeper abiding rest which comes from long acquaintance and closer fellowship as the result of an entire surrender.

THE SECRET TO PERFECT REST!

By giving up one’s whole life to Him for Him alone to rule and order, you begin to experience rest.

Take up His yoke and submit to be led and taught; abide in Him, be and do only what He wills—these are the conditions of discipleship that help you maintain the rest that was bestowed to us through the first coming of Christ.

The rest is not something He gives apart from Himself, and so it is only in having Him that the rest can really be kept and enjoyed.

Jesus claims the undivided allegiance of your whole heart and life. There is not a spot in the whole of your life over which He does not wish to reign. Even in the very least of things, His disciples must only seek to please Him.

Give your work to Him and rest as you receive His direction.

Give your family to Him and rest as you watch Him bring your unsaved loved ones into a personal relationship with Him.

Give your finances to Him and rest as you watch Him teach you His principles of abundance.

It becomes apparent that two key elements are essential for living in divine life:

1. Give up all to Jesus.
2. Receive all from Jesus.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONDITIONS OF THE PROMISE

Jesus laid down one simple condition in our vine relationship for us to follow: abide.

Every branch in any vine must abide.

Go and look at a vine. Get close to it. Listen. You cannot hear anything, but if you could, you would see in every branch a movement of life pressing along towards the grapes.

Every branch is not only pressing upward and growing off the main stem; every branch is dependent on sap (spiritually, the Holy Spirit) —the life element for maintenance to carry it out, to carry it forward, and press it out into fruit bearing.

Jesus said, “If you abide, you can demand, you can ask whatever you are inclined to.” A most amazing thing.

But the condition is that we must abide.

If we abide there, it is His life in us to press out to that fruit that God expects, and for which the world is waiting.

What is it to abide?

Abiding needs no effort.

Effort is made to arrive at a point, not to stay there. Take the illustration of a congregation abiding in the church. They are

making no effort to abide, but when the service is over, they will make an effort to go out of the church.

To abide requires no effort.

It is like being at rest.

Abiding does not mean that we are always conscious of our position in the upper reaches of our consciousness. A congregation is not saying during the whole time of the service, "I am in church."

But they know they are there.

Much like a husband knows his wife is there in a relationship. We abide by obedience to the light we have and walk in the way of His commandments as we know them; that is abiding.

Then, there is the asking.

If we are branches in the vine, that means all redemptive forces that the world needs are in Him and are the result of His coming. Those resources are all at the world's disposal through those who are branches in the vine.

In that relationship, anything we ask, God will do. The secret here is that you abide in God, and that He abides in you. Sap comes from the vine and the branches are strengthened and they produce fruit.

If you are not on the vine, then you get cut off and start to dry up. And remember, the dry wood is not fit for anything but to be destroyed.

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

The only way God can use you is if you are in the vine and have His power and anointing—then you can produce fruit. If you are not in the vine, He cannot help you.

And unless you are connected with the vine, He cannot do anything either, since He has voluntarily agreed to let you become His instrument for producing fruit on this earth.

That is a powerful statement.

God is helpless without us by His own plan!

You must be connected to the vine to be productive.

The vine must have branches to produce.

It works both ways!

You produce the fruit, but without Jesus Christ (the vine), you cannot produce.

FELLOWSHIP IS VITAL!

You can now see why it is so vital that you have fellowship with God. If your relationship is broken, start immediately to take the steps necessary to restore it.

Connect to the vine so you can produce. He does not want to throw you out.

Repent.

Come back to Him.

Say this simple prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I repent of my sins and desire to restore my relationship with You. Lord, forgive me of all my sins and wash me clean with Your precious blood. Lord, I want to learn to rest in You and walk in Your divine life. Please accept my contrite heart and teach me Your ways. Amen.”

CHAPTER SIX

DIVINE LIFE, PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The answer to each and every prayer you lift up to heaven will come from the closer union and the deeper abiding in Him.

As you abide in Jesus, His love, His power, and His infinite glory will be fully revealed beyond anything the finite heart of man can conceive.

God will give you knowledge deeper than human thoughts or spoken words can convey; you will receive the miraculous knowing of God which comes from living in divine life with Him.

DIVINE LIFE ANSWERS LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS

There are a thousand questions and decisions that come into your life, and the attempts to answer them all in some sort of accurate manner become a very difficult and draining process.

But it no longer has to be that way.

The burden comes from forgetting who you are in Christ—in forgetting the God who has designed you to function in His wisdom.

Let me give a practical example of how walking in divine life can have a worldwide impact on your activity, and how it enables you to flow in God's perfect plan—a plan that you or I could never devise for ourselves!

In 1951, I was completing the building of a twenty-acre shopping center—a project that had occupied a great deal of my time over the previous several years.

To celebrate the grand opening, about ten thousand people were coming to the center, including many famous actors and actresses who were representing the various huge tenants of our center. Leo Carillo, the famous Mexican actor who played the Cisco Kid and many other roles, was among the honored guests.

I was looking forward to meeting all these people. During times like this, I found it a great opportunity to witness to others about the love and power of God, as well as how He was moving in my own life. No words could adequately explain how I was looking forward to this particular Saturday.

The day of the grand opening, a couple of men who helped start our Fellowship came up to me and said, "Demos, you need to come with us to North Long Beach. They are having a real man of God at Tommy Reed's church, and you need to hear him. We believe he has a part in your life."

"When is he speaking?" I asked.

"Tonight."

"Oh, I can't leave tonight," I told them, "we are having our big grand opening celebration for the shopping center. I've got to be here."

The two men were not insistent, but they did say, "Well, we just wanted you to know about this man. We feel in our spirits He is going to play a major part in your life and in the life of the Fellowship."

They were so confident about what they were saying that I assured them, "I will pray about it."

And I did, knowing full well in my mind that there was no way God would tell me to miss the grand opening of my shopping center just to go hear another man speak. I could hear the man another day, but this would be the one day in my lifetime that I would have a grand opening for my own shopping center development.

At the time, all I could think of was, *I have worked so hard for many years trying to build this shopping center. Now, Saturday is my time to enjoy the fruits of my work. Never again in my life will I ever have a time when 10,000 business leaders and celebrities will gather at a spot I have created.*

Yet, these two men were telling me I should pray about being willing to leave all of that to hear a man of God.

So, I prayed.

And, much to my shock, God said, “Go!”

In retrospect, this simple directive proved to be one of the most important instructions I was ever to receive from God. Had I not been walking in close relationship with God, my old man could have simply brushed off the prayer’s answer by saying, “Oh, that really couldn’t have been God,” and gone to the grand opening instead, rationalizing that God would surely not want me to miss out on the fruits of my long-time labor.

But the marvelous thing about the divine life experience is that we know His voice, and we know that God always knows better, always knows the future, so if He says, “Go,” you go.

So, I went.

And what I experienced that night at that prayer meeting literally changed the course of my life and the course of the Fellowship.

The man I was to meet that day in a packed-out church in North Long Beach was Tommy Hicks—a little man; not much to look at. But when he hugged me on the platform, I witnessed a powerful man of God, and felt in my spirit the strong anointing God had placed on his life.

At that moment, I knew I was dealing with a man of God.

As a result of hearing Tommy that night, I arranged to personally sponsor him in several revival tent meetings. I was already holding the meetings, but we started to involve Tommy Hicks as the minister and preacher from then on.

Over the years, Tommy Hicks was used by God to greatly encourage me in times when that was precisely what I needed.

In 1952, he was staying at our home during a period of time when I was discouraged, tired, and ready to give up the vision of FGBMFI. My son, Richard, was away in Bible college, so Tommy was staying in Richard's room.

On Friday night, we went into prayer. I was so discouraged about the lack of growth in the Fellowship that I was honestly thinking about canceling the meeting on Saturday.

After our prayer, Rose went into her bedroom and Tommy went into his. In my spirit, I felt the need to continue seeking God, so I fell on the floor in prayer and wept for the next two hours.

Rose came back into the room, and without saying anything, she walked over to the organ and began to play some worship music.

The heavens opened up!

The Spirit of God poured out.

I felt the anointing of God's Holy Spirit.

Before Rose came into the room, it seemed as though my prayers were going up to the ceiling, hitting it, and then bouncing right back to me.

Now, it seemed like the ceiling had turned into a vacuum and the prayers were being sucked straight to heaven! It was as though the roof voraciously swallowed every prayer I prayed.

That is the night God showed me the historic vision that I have often written about. He took me around the world twice. Rose began to prophesy. She declared the things that God intended for the Fellowship. What made this experience so remarkable to me is that, just hours before, Rose was the one telling me that FGBMFI

must *not* be of God because it was not prospering in the manner we both had envisioned.

Yet now, through her obedience to God (and her own divine life), God was encouraging me to continue. Her true feelings were that the Fellowship should be abandoned because it was struggling so much, but now, as she yielded to the Holy Spirit, she was telling me what God wanted me to know.

This was not Rose speaking.

She poured out a great torrent of prophecy.

“For this reason, you were born. I knew you before you were born, and for this you were born. Continue. Look not to the right or the left. Continue. I am leading you by your hands. You are in the center of My will. I am guiding you.”

When she finished describing the vision that I saw, I was amazed. God had shown me clearly what I was to do.

By now, it was about six in the morning, so I thought I would go to rest in my room for about an hour before we left to go to Clifton’s Cafeteria. As I walked by Tommy’s door, I noticed a small crack of about an inch underneath the door and a light coming out. I knocked on the door, and Tommy said, “Come in.”

He was slain on the floor.

He told me, “Demos, I have been in so many wonderful meetings where the power of God has poured out, but tonight, through this wall, there was so much power coming through I could not stand up. I’d get up, and the power of God would hit me down. The Lord was speaking to me, and I had a vision that I am supposed to go to Argentina and meet with Dictator Peron.”

About seven in the morning, we left the house to go to our breakfast Fellowship meeting, and oh, how God blessed that morning! The Fellowship broke wide open in a mighty revival and started to explode, growing unlike anything ever seen before.

Today, we have almost 4,000 chapters in 112 countries and continue to grow by the power of God.

DIVINE LIFE AND THE LITTLE THINGS

The reason I shared this story with you is because sometimes, when we do not walk the divine life, the little things can divert and drastically change the God-given course for our lives.

If I had not gone to meet Tommy the day of the shopping center opening, I would have personally lost a great encourager for my own life.

If I had not gone, I would have lost a mighty minister and preacher for our tent meetings.

And, if I had not gone, Tommy would not have been in my house to experience the power of God that night a night when God gave him the very specific direction to go to Argentina.

And what God did in Argentina is a miracle of nation-changing proportions!

PERON MEETS THE LITTLE MAN

Tom went to Argentina.

He went to see Peron, and the secretary who met him at the presidential door stood about six foot or so; you had to be cleared through him to see Peron.

“Why do you want to see Peron?” he scowled.

“I want permission to hold a miracle meeting,” Tommy replied. “I want to hold a meeting where there will be signs and wonders that testify to the miracle God that I serve. God told me to come here and see Peron.”

Peron’s secretary was not impressed.

“You can’t see him,” he gruffly replied, then walked away. Tommy noticed that, as he walked, he had a limp, as though there was a bad pain in his leg.

“Sir, come back here,” Tommy said. “What is the matter with your foot?”

“I was born with this infection—a problem with my foot. It’s been painful all my life. No doctor has been able to cure me,” the man replied, warming up a bit.

Even with a room full of people in the office, Tommy said, “If you let me pray for you, my Lord can heal that foot of yours.”

The man seemed startled by the statement, but he did not resist; he just nodded his head to indicate, “Yes.”

Tommy got on his knees in front of the whole room full of people and wrapped his tiny arms around the foot.

“Lord, please heal this foot,” he prayed.

When the prayer was completed, the guard walked away (maybe six or seven steps), and while he walked, he kept pounding his foot on the floor.

“I don’t understand it,” he said. “I have no pain. It is gone,” the big man declared. “Sir, you come back in twenty-four hours. If the pain does not return by then, you can see Peron.”

Tommy saw Peron.

Dr. Miller, who had a Bible school in Buenos Aires and helped Tommy in Argentina, knew about this incident. Many years later, I read in Dr. Miller’s book how young students in his Bible college saw visions that there was going to be a great revival in Argentina, a pouring out of God’s Holy Spirit. These students were slain in the Spirit as they experienced their visions, and these experiences went on for many days.

As I read this book, I decided to locate and call Dr. Miller. I tracked him down in Atlanta, Georgia.

“When are you coming to California?” I asked him. “I’d like to spend a day with you.”

We set up a time.

The day we were together, Dr. Miller told me about the vision of the great revival coming. We compared times and days, and his students were having visions at the same time Tommy was receiving his visions from God while staying in our home!

Dr. Miller knew the story about Peron's secretary, but he also knew another story I had not heard.

Peron had a face much like an elephant's skin, marred by infections. It was very thick, and it was so bad that he would not allow pictures to be taken. There was no known cure.

"Mr. President, I want to hold a miracle meeting in your country, and I need the largest stadium you have in Argentina. I want to hold a healing miracle meeting. God told me to come here. He wants to do great miracles for your people right here."

Peron was equally straight in his reply. "Could your God do anything for my face?"

"If you let me pray for you," Tommy boldly asserted, "yes, my God can heal you."

Right before every person in the room, Tommy started to pray, laying hands on Peron's face. Before their eyes, the elephant skin started to disappear! Peron put his hands on his face after and said, "It feels like baby skin."

Governor Gonzalez (who relayed the happenings of that day to Dr. Miller) replied, "That's right, you are clean. Absolutely normal. Like a baby."

Peron looked in the mirror and started crying as he rubbed his face.

"What do you want?"

"I want the soccer stadium," Tommy replied.

"You can have it," Peron immediately responded. "What else do you want?"

"Television and radio."

"You have it. What else?"

Everything Tom asked for, he got.

When God wants a revival, he will bring a man to open the door, and will do it through signs, wonders, and miracles. Right there, Tom went and had one of the greatest revivals ever known in the world.

Over 100,000 a night came to the Lord!

In the next sixty days, six million people came to the meetings!

The whole nation was shocked to its very foundation! Many major magazines wrote about the miracle God and the power of His healing that was sweeping the country.

This was one of the greatest revivals in history. And the threads that made that possible, that started the chain of events leading up to it, started with a “Yes, Lord, I’ll go to that meeting and give up the grand opening.”

That statement and obedience would never have been possible in the natural man.

But God knew what I needed and what the Fellowship needed.
And what Argentina needed.

“Nothing is impossible with God, Demos, let’s just get the job done,” Tommy used to tell me. “We must keep serving God.”

And that is why I am writing this book.

To help you serve God.

Let it be your first care to abide in Him in the undivided and fervent devotion of your heart. When your heart and life are right, rooted in Christ, divine knowledge will come in bountiful measure.

Christ’s own wisdom will guide your every decision!

Possess Christ, dwell in Him, and make Him your life. Only in a deeper searching into Him will you find the knowledge and guidance you desire. He alone can guide you to know what your destiny as an obedient child of God is.

He will help you and stop those things which might hinder your inner life. All things are perfectly clear to Him, and He is your wisdom, there to guide you in the right way even when you do not see it.

Remember who He is!

Jesus is the Son of God!

Your vine!

Your Shepherd!

Christ!

Sometimes, we as Christians might get calloused and do things we should not do. But God wants to restore us now. Get back to God.

Make sure you are cleaned up. Remove the temptations from your life that might lead you to sin.

Get cleaned up. Then become one with Him in the Spirit.

Peron's face got cleaned up in an instant, and so can you, with God's forgiveness.

Then, through the lifeblood of the Holy Spirit, Who is the living sap that nourishes the vine and the branches, you can live in a healthy relationship with God.

Remember, the vine is your life, living right through you. Start living in the life flow—the same divine life that flowed through Tommy Hicks.

That same life flow that is still flowing through the Fellowship.

GOD KNEW THEY WERE COMING

Let me share another story with you to illustrate how God can use us in our relationship in the vine.

My son, Richard, would often lead the youth group at our conventions in his early years. One day, as he was preparing for the next day's meeting, the Lord led him to research scripture and write down all the proofs of why Jesus was the Messiah.

He dug them out from the Old Testament prophets and went to his youth meeting to present them.

At the time, he wondered, *Why am I doing this? This is a very strange direction for a youth meeting to go.* But, unknown to Richard, on that particular day, there was a delegation of Jewish young people staying at the hotel who had come into our youth meeting out of curiosity. There were about twenty to thirty Jewish youth, and they were sprinkled with a liberal dose of Old

Testament scripture proving why Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled the prophecies.

Richard told me several years later that the youth meeting he held then was the only time he had ever been so led to do research on the topic of Jesus as Messiah.

Do you see what God intends for you?

His guiding of your spiritual life through the Holy Spirit reveals what God has prepared for us—even without you always knowing how or why something is to be done!

On the strength of His faithfulness, we yield ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit without claiming to have it first made clear to the intellect what He is to do. We learn to be content to let Him do His work in our lives, and afterwards, to know what He has done.

By faith, we rejoice in what we do not see or feel.

LET THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD

Our walk in the divine life is the work of the Holy Spirit!

God uses our divine life relationship to foster, strengthen, guide, and perfect the new life within.

We yield ourselves in simple trust to the unseen. The Holy Spirit is the bond of fellowship between Christ and us; He is the life-sap through which the vine and branch grow into real and living oneness.

Through the Holy Spirit, you and God become one. He teaches you to abide in places you do not yet understand. It is impossible to live the life of full abiding without being full of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes the living Christ, in all His saving power and in the completeness of His victory over sin, ever present with us.

CHAPTER SEVEN

IS DIVINE LIFE REALLY POSSIBLE ALL THE TIME?

Is a life of unbroken fellowship with the Son of God really attainable here in this Earthly life, what with all of its distractions, temptations, and burdens?

No.

Not if the abiding is in our work or attempted in our strength.

But the things that are impossible with men are possible with God!

If the Lord Himself will keep our soul night and day, will watch and water it every moment as our husbandman (the keeper of the vine), then surely the uninterrupted communion with Jesus can become a miracle reality to those who can trust God to mean and to do what He says.

The abiding of the branch in the vine through day and night, winter and summer, in a never-ceasing divine life fellowship, is nothing less than the simple but certain promise of your abiding in our Lord.

You just need that willing, intelligent, and whole-hearted surrender by which you accept His offer, and consent to the abiding in Him as the only life we choose or seek—no matter what business

cares you have, no matter what your financial situation is, you make the decision to trust and rest in Him.

BUT ALL THE TIME?

But how can we always abide in Him?

Surely our limited power prevents us from being occupied with two things at the same time. When you are running your business for hours at a time, the closest attention is required to the work that you do. How can you, with your mind on your work, at the same time be occupied with Christ and keeping your fellowship with Him?

You cannot.

But abiding in Jesus does not require a strain and a direct occupation of your mind to heavenly thoughts. There is no necessity for that. Abiding does not mean to be engaged in an every moment reflection.

Instead, abiding is when you entrust yourself to His eternal love in the faith that He will abide with His holy presence and watch over you, even when you are intently occupied with other things.

For example, a man loves his wife and children and always longs to return to them after intense hours of work in his business. Even though he is not thinking of them every moment when he is at work, his love for them is as deep and as real as when he is home with them face to face. The husband and father never really loses the sense of relationship with his wife and children, even though the consciousness is engaged in a pressing project back at the office.

Our abiding in Jesus is a fellowship of love and life. In work or in rest, the consciousness of life never leaves us. Christ, who is our life, dwells within us, and by His presence, He maintains our consciousness so that we are constantly in Him.

WHAT ABOUT OUR SINS?

We all know that sin separates us from God, so how can we walk in the divine life when we have a sinful nature?

Too many people assume that we must all be sometimes unfaithful and fail.

But abiding in Christ has been ordained for us as our only sufficient deliverance. He told us to abide in Him and He will give us grace and power to enable us to perform it!

Yes, there will be times of weary struggle and bitter failure.

But we can overcome them.

There may come more than one hour in which you are ready to yield to despair or sin. Be of good courage. Believe in Him who is part of you. Think no longer that the duties and the cares and the sorrows and the sins of this life must succeed in hindering the abiding life of fellowship.

Become persuaded that neither death with its fears, nor life with its care, nor things present with their pressing claims, nor things to come with their dark shadows, nor height of joy, nor depth of sorrow, nor any other creature, shall be able—for one single moment—to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, and in which He is teaching you to abide.

Do not think of the long haul, but rather abide in Him one day at a time.

ALLOW TIME TO GROW

The truths in this book need time to grow in your spirit. Do not expect to abide in Him unless you give Him time. It is not enough to read God's Word and, when you think you have hold of the thoughts and have asked God for His blessing, to go out in the hope that the blessing will abide.

You need day-by-day time with Jesus and with God. We all know the need for time for our meals each day. If we are to live through Jesus, we must feed on Him; we must thoroughly take in and assimilate the heavenly food the Father has given us in His life.

Learn to take time, each day, to put yourself into living contact with the living Jesus, to yield yourself distinctly and consciously to His influence so that you will give Him the opportunity of taking hold of you, of drawing you up and keeping you safe in His almighty life.

STUDY HIS WORD

Study to know the living Word. Jesus, the wisdom of God, is known by a life of implicit confidence and obedience. The words He speaks are spirit and life to those who live in Him. Each time you read or hear or meditate upon the Word, be careful to take up your true position.

Realize first your oneness with Him Who is the wisdom of God.

Know yourself to be under His direct and special training.

Go to the Word abiding in Him, the very fountain of divine life.

Learn the lesson that there is a spot where safety and victory and peace and rest are always sure, and that spot is always open to you in the heart of Jesus. The soul has but to yield itself to Him, to be still and rest in the confidence that His love has undertaken, and that His faithfulness will perform the work of keeping it safe in the shelter of His heart.

Remember, all you wish to know is perfectly clear to him.

Say this prayer:

“Lord, I abide in You. At Your bidding I gladly wear Your yoke. Let each consciousness of failure only give new urgency to the command and teach me to listen more earnestly than ever until the Holy Spirit again gives me the

ability to hear the voice of Jesus saying, with a love and authority that inspire both hope and obedience, ‘Child, abide in me.’

“Lord, I receive Your divine life and gladly accept the ever-increasing simplicity of its meaning. Lord, I freely give of myself to be ruled and taught and led, and rest in the arms of Your everlasting love.”

Remember, you do not have to be strong or perfect to abide in Christ. Divine life is designed by God for man, and He knows our faults and failings. Divine life is not the doing of some great thing and does not demand that we first lead a very holy, devoted, and absolutely consecrated life.

It is simply our own weakness keeping us from entrusting ourselves to the Mighty One—to cast our cares on the One who is altogether trustworthy and true.

We consent to let Him do all for us, in us, and through us.

Divine life is a work He does for us—the fruit and the power of His redeeming love.

Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for what He has engaged to perform.

His almighty power lays hold on you and offers to lift you up to where He would have you. Just as it requires no effort for a little child to rest in his mother’s arms, so easy is our chance to rest in God. You may think you are too weak, too unfaithful, too sinful, or too busy to ever obtain the walk in divine life.

Fix your eyes on Christ.

“In Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not” (1 John 3:5-6).

Our holiness of life is rooted in the personal holiness of Jesus. Having a sinful nature is different from actually doing sin. Doing

is the yielding to the indwelling sinful nature and falling into transgression.

When you abide in Christ, He becomes close and unbroken so that the soul lives from moment to moment in the perfect union with the Lord, its keeper. He forces down the power of the old nature so that it does not regain dominion over the soul.

With many of us, the abiding is so feeble and intermittent that sin continually obtains the ascendancy and brings the soul into subjection.

The divine life promise is that sin will not have dominion over you!

The believer who claims the promise in full faith has the power to obey the command, and sin is kept from asserting its supremacy. Jesus does save you from sin—not by the removal of the sinful nature, but by keeping you from yielding to it.

Now, does that mean you will never sin again? It could.

But you get into serious trouble when you start saying, “To walk in the divine life, I must never ever sin again as long as I live.”

Instead, ask yourself this question: “Can Jesus, at this present moment, as I abide in Him, keep me from the sins which have been the stain and the weariness of my daily life?”

Surely, He can.

Take Him at this present moment.

Yield yourself to Him in earnest prayer to keep abiding.

If you fall, let your failure and sin (instead of discouraging you) only urge you still more to seek your safety in abiding in the sinless One.

Turn your eyes on Jesus and ask whether you can trust Him who sought and found and brought you to Him.

Look on His arms of strength and power and be assured that He is indeed able to keep you from falling as you abide in Him.

Take time to be alone with Jesus and say to Him, “Lord I love You. I yield this very day to you. I surrender to You. I give myself to You.”

Jesus is the living vine in heaven, and you are the living branch on earth. Praise God for the miracle that allows us to be a living part of Jesus Christ each day!

Jesus is the loving guide to full communion with God. He is the true vine bearing you, nourishing you, supplying you, using you, and filling you to the full measure to make you bring forth fruit abundantly.

You are a branch of Jesus, the true vine, abiding in Him, resting on Him, waiting for Him, serving Him, and living only in Him so that He may show forth the riches of His grace and give His fruit to a perishing world.

Jesus Christ is God, and He is giving us the opportunity to be as much a part of Him as the vine is part of the branches!

Are you excited?

You are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works—grafted by Him into Christ for the bringing forth of much fruit.

Whatever God creates is exquisitely suited to its end. He created the sun to give light, and nothing in the universe does it better!

He created the eye to see, and it dutifully records the thousands of hues and shades that nature produces.

He created you in the new man to do good works and produce fruit, and how admirably you are fitted for His purpose.

As you grasp the full reality of walking in His divine life, I believe each day you will shout with joy the words of Psalm 150:1-2:

“Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

“Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.”

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

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

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5: 22-26).

CHAPTER EIGHT

PRODUCING FRUIT IN THE DIVINE LIFE RELATIONSHIP

The ultimate objective of the divine life relationship is to produce fruit. A fruitless branch never serves the purpose of the vine.

You and I are chosen and ordained to bring forth fruit.

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...” (John 15:16).

As we live in Christ and the Holy Spirit flows through us, the fruit we produce will reflect those things that mirror the nature of Jesus Christ—His divine character will manifest itself in our lives.

The fruit of our lives will be love, joy, peace, faith, etc., because the Spirit will be in all our actions since we have freely given Him total access and control over our free will. His own personal characteristics will appear as fruit in our lives.

To abide in Him is to abide in His Word, His will, and His work, so that God can work in us to do of His good pleasure and produce good fruit. It is to the honor of the husbandman that the branch brings forth abundant fruit.

Our fruit will be precisely the opposite of those things which were part of our old man. We will no longer walk in fleshly influences, but in the power of His Spirit—our divine helper who enables us to walk in the Spirit of truth, of grace, of love, and of power.

Remember, our testimony would be fruitless without Him!

The fruits produced from our divine life include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5: 22-23).

You and I will become powerful witnesses for Christ because people will see the fruit of our lives. Because we ourselves are in a Christ-like relationship, we will produce Christ-like relationships with others.

Jesus Christ is the vine brought down from heaven and planted in the earth. He was true to God and true to His own nature. Now, He is true to those who are divinely connected to Him as branches, and the fruit you and I produce is the perfect result of that vine/branch relationship.

The nature of the vine to the branch is to always keep a life-flow going that leads to the production of fruit. Therefore, Christ as our vine is actually involving us in a relationship where His nature is always producing more fruit through our divine life.

Naturally, the branch cannot produce fruit by itself; it must be part of the vine.

We are the true disciples of Christ when His character manifests itself in our lives. Because we give Him free access to our hearts and full control of them, His own personal characteristics will appear in the fruit of our lives. Fruit is the natural result of being a part of the vine. By an adherence to the mind and will of our Lord and by the bringing forth of the fruit of the Spirit, we are declaring ourselves to be walking in His divine life. Much fruit means much love, much joy, much peace, etc. In this miraculous divine life relationship, we can walk through the gloomy shadows of a sinful world with the fruits of life, peace, and eternal glory in our souls!

The Fellowship was born as part of that process and has touched the lives of millions of people in over one hundred nations of the world. Today, God wants you to have that same divine life relationship so He can direct you on how to produce fruit for His ultimate purpose.

DIVINE LIFE PRODUCES FRUIT

Faith is one of the first fruits you will produce in a divine life relationship with Jesus Christ. Faith is that amazing gift from God which allows us to know that, in every circumstance, God's grace will prevail. Faith gives each of us that deep sense of inner victory because we know that God's promises will always be faithful.

Testing and trials cease to be traumas, instead becoming opportunities to prove the promises of God. Faith enables us to trust in God when those around us are clutching desperately to their jobs, their career training, their own efforts, or their connections in the world.

Because of faith, we can endure the pruning process in Christian life.

Just like the keeper of an Earthly vine, sometimes Christ must cut away the various shoots from your branches that are not tending towards fruitfulness. When you walk in the faith of His promises, you know your life is dedicated to His service and understand that, sometimes, your desires and efforts must be nipped off and thrown away as hindrances so His complete will can be done in your life.

The divine life is kept pure by faith.

“And put no difference, between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:9).

One of the most recent and powerful examples I can think of to demonstrate how God manifested the fruit of faith in my own life concerns our recent major breakthroughs in Armenia.

THE ARMENIAN MIRACLE

For a long time, I have had a deep burden for the souls of my Armenian people. That burden increased after they experienced the horrors of the Turkish massacre, and, more recently, after the devastation of the major earthquake of 1989.

I cried out, “My God, when are You going to help the Armenian people? I want to help them. What is our place in this?”

Not long after that humble prayer, I was visited by the Russian head of all the Pentecostal churches in the Soviet Union. He said, “Demos, you must come to Russia. They are calling for you. They have read your book, *The Happiest People on Earth*, and you are an inspiration to them. Would you please pray about coming?”

Soon after that visit, the Armenian Bishop came to see me, and he said, “Demos, please come to Armenia. The people are calling for you. It would mean a great deal to them if you would journey to Armenia.”

These visits from spiritual leaders both happened within a few months. I was amazed at their ardent desire for me to come to Armenia, but I was also hesitant. Rose and I were both concerned about the rigorous travel schedule of a demanding trip to Armenia, so we prayed about what to do.

We had only the deepest faith that God would provide the perfect solution to this miracle opportunity.

Then came an important official of the Armenian government, the head of all communications, and he said, “Demos, if you come to Armenia, I will see to it that you receive free TV, radio, and our largest sports arena. Just come.”

After this third visit, it was very clear that God was calling the Fellowship to Armenia, so I prayed again, asking the Holy Spirit what to do.

The Holy Spirit then gave me the solution, and led me to ask Richard, my son, “Will you go in my place?”

After praying about it, he said he would go. Before Richard left, I prayed this simple prayer over him: “Father, You know I can’t go right now, so would You do for Richard what You would have done for me? Thank You, dear Father. Amen.”

Richard organized the airlift without any outside support, and God blessed that effort. We have heard from Armenia that this was one of the greatest Christian meetings ever held there. With government help, Richard appeared on national TV and got the Central Committee Communist Press to print 20,000 copies of the Gospel of St. John in their own language—the first time they have ever printed Christian literature!

What an awesome move of God.

The sports arena they gave us held 15,000, and it was so full that they had an overflow crowd of about 4,000. Armenian people are not easily moved, yet they turned out in record numbers to hear the gospel and 10,000 men dedicated their lives to take the

message to all of Russia and to start Full Gospel Chapters throughout the country.

From this miraculous outreach, the first FGBMFI chapter was established in Armenia, and I believe (through the grace of God), we will see 4,000 more chapters in Russia before Jesus comes!

Miracles from God happened, and numerous healings took place as the mute spoke and the crippled walked. The entire nation was deeply moved and begged us to come back again.

God answered my prayers for the Armenian people far beyond anything I could ask or think of, and in a way that could give no man the glory.

Only God could do it.

What happened was supernatural.

FRUITS ARE A NATURAL FLOW

I believe our Armenian outreach is a perfect example of the fruits of walking in a divine life relationship—a relationship where the desire and the intent of our heart is only to serve and glorify God.

The fruits of the Spirit manifested themselves naturally in this entire outreach to Armenia, just as the vine and the branch in nature produce fruit when they are functioning as they were designed.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit.

In every Christian life, the whole fruit of the Spirit should be found (Galatians 5:22-23).

In our Armenian outreach, God gave me the faith (a fruit) to know His promise for the Armenian people would be fulfilled, and He gave me the faith to believe that He would minister to them whether I personally went to Armenia or not. I knew it was God's time for Armenia, and I also knew that I was not necessarily the

instrument God would use to reach my precious country in that particular hour.

In an earlier chapter of this book, I shared with you how I knew that I must skip my shopping center grand opening to go and hear the man of God. In the case of our Armenian outreach, I knew God would use another man to reach Armenia, even if the bishops and government leaders were calling for me to come.

I honestly believe God sent Richard Shakarian in my place so all the glory would go to God for the miracles that unfolded, and no one would look to another man and say, “Isn’t this man of God wonderful?” By sending Richard, I believe God enabled the Armenian people to focus their eyes more clearly on the message than on the man.

Next, God gave me the thrill of seeing my son, Richard, answer my prayer without personal glory (one of the fruits of the Spirit is that we are not “desirous of vain glory”).

In ministry, there can be no room for inflated egos or false spiritual pride. Self-will, self-wisdom, and every other form of self-assertiveness is an usurping of the Holy Spirit. If you want the help of the Holy Spirit in your ministry for Christ, you cannot speak from your own authority. Speak only those things you hear from Him, and then He can properly guide your steps.

Thankfully, when we walk in a divine life relationship, our loving Heavenly Father gently prunes away the dead and useless branches of the old man so that only the fruit of His Spirit can remain. The old man must completely die, just as when a fruit dies in nature, its seed can then produce new fruit. The seeds we need to sow are our own—old flesh buried at the cross of Jesus. Through that process, we bring forth new life and new fruit multiplied far beyond that single piece of fruit that died.

Finally, in our Armenian ministry, because Richard diligently seeks the divine life, he was able to walk in the Spirit (a fruit)

during the entire Armenian outreach. As a result, touching miracles happened, and thousands dedicated their lives to Jesus.

DIVINE LIFE, DAILY GROWTH

When you are in a living relationship, you must either grow or die. There is no in between. A vine that is not in the growing process will die.

There is no retirement when you flow in divine life. He intends for you to experience a fruitful life until you go to be with Him in heaven.

“They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing...” (Psalm 92:14).

Isn't that exciting? That's why I'll never retire, because God's Word guarantees I will produce fruit in my old age.

You do not have to retire when you serve God!

He intends for you to grow and produce fruit all your life. One of the keys to this daily growth involves another fruit of the Spirit, found in Romans 12:10:

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...”

Mutual love and devotion are extremely important fruits for a productive body of Christ. Notice how the fruits go against the natural grain of man. In the natural, man will always prefer himself over others. But, in our divine life relationship, God gives us the fruit to prefer others to ourselves!

The fruit we produce is Christ-like; we become mirrors of what Christ was when He walked the Earth. We will become like Him

not because of our own strength, but because we live in a divine life relationship where His love flows through us.

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God...” (Colossians 1:10).

The fruit of a divine life relationship is you; your total life and how you live it is the fruit of that relationship.

The other fruits from our divine life relationship are those things we do—our actions and good works that bring others into the kingdom of God.

The Jews traditionally offered the first fruits of their work in the fields to the Lord; these offerings were the biblical root of what we now call the tithes and offerings.

Today, we offer to God the spiritual fruit that is manifested in our divine life relationship. Our outreaches to our neighbor, our fellow workers, or to Armenia bring pleasure and joy to God, and produce spiritual fruit in the form of saved souls.

Christ expected that others would believe on His Name through us, that lost sheep not of His fold would hear His voice through our mouths and be brought into the one flock under the one Shepherd.

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (John 10:16).

Start to let your light shine today—that light which He hath shined into your heart that others, seeing the good works (the fruit) of God in you, may glorify your Father. Remember, God has blessed you so that you might be a blessing to others.

I pray this book has moved and inspired you to seek fervently for yourself the reality of the divine life. Each day, I pray you will

ask God to increase your relationship with Him so that the fruit you produce will bring others into eternal life. As you produce this eternal fruit, you will begin to lead the exciting reality foretold in Psalms:

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalm 1:3).

Do you see the impact of this promise? God says that virtually every single thing you do in life shall prosper.

How can He make such a promise?

God knows that when you are in the divine life, every single thing you do will be in His will and for His purpose, so it must prosper! You will love all that He loves and hate all that He hates. You will live in a deep heart sympathy with Him in His desire to honor the Father, and at the same time to love and seek to save the sinful sons of men.

May God quicken to your heart the truth contained in these pages, and may the Holy Spirit encourage and strengthen you to seek and live in the divine life every remaining moment of your life until Jesus comes!

Remember, it is not your head understanding of divine life which will bring about the reality of living it each day. You can be wise and scholarly and enthusiastic yet destitute of that deep joy and satisfaction that comes through the manifestation of divine life.

Knowledge and enthusiasm are not enough to experience the divine life.

It is love, not knowledge, that creates capacity for Christ. Intense loving is more pleasing to Him than deep thinking. He who loves the Lord with all his heart will live in the continual divine life of His comforting presence and matchless glory.

The condition is love.

Christ commanded us to love, and love is the bond that holds His people one to another amid the hatred and opposition of this world. Love is a fruit of the Spirit and produces peace in our lives. Not to love one another is an act of rebellion against the rule of Christ.

And the proof of love is in the keeping of His words and the fruits of your life. The love of God can only be perfected in that heart where love answers to love. It is impossible to keep His words and to grow under His teaching as He desires we should unless there is a growing love and devotion to Christ's person and work in us.

I pray you will be diligent to keep your heart right with God so He can manifest Himself in your life in all power, blessing, and success!

All things are yours, because you are part of the vine of Christ. He who had power to rise from the dead has the power to perform His every promise in your life. In the dark and cloudy day we call the end-time hour, the relative value of other lights may be disputed, but when the Son breaks out in all His glorious majesty, there is no questioning His all-sufficiency to meet His every promise!

The words of God have been given to us as they were given to Jesus Christ, His Son, for a very definite and gracious purpose—that God might be glorified in faithful, fruitful, and successful service.

The privilege of divine life is a precious gift!

As He is, so are we!

As God gave Christ the glory of sonship and heirship, so too He has given this glory to us who believe. The purpose of this manifold divine life is so that we can produce fruit and be witnesses to the world. His nature, which is love, will be continually manifested in us. As you end this book, lift up your hands and begin to thank

Him for the depth, the fullness, and the eternity of His divine love for your life.

I would ask that you fervently pray this simple petition to the heavenly Father as you close this book and open your heart to the divine life Christ is offering to you right now:

“Heavenly Father, this day I ask You to destroy any evidence or remaining remnants of the old man in my life. Purify me and cleanse me of all my old habits and sinful ways so that I may be a pure branch for Your love to flow through to produce fruit for Your glory.

“Lord, I thank You for the opportunity to walk in a vine/branch relationship that produces divine life and give You all the praise and glory for any good works You may unfold through my humble life. I ask that when others see me, they see You also.

“Lord, thank You for first loving me.

“I pray You will, each day, through Your Holy Spirit, increase the intensity of my love for You until that precious time when You will come again to rule and reign over this world. Amen.”

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About the Author

Demos Shakarian is the founder and president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, an organization with approximately 4,000 chapters in the nations of the world. Vinson Synan, chairman of the North American Renewal Service Committee, has called FGBMFI "...the greatest Christian laymen's organization in the world."

The purpose of each chapter is to allow men to engage in fellowship with each other and to bring testimonies of the saving power of God to businessmen in each local community. Tens of thousands of lost souls have been saved through this outreach.

Demos Shakarian has been used by God to help spearhead the charismatic movement around the world and is the author of the best-selling book, *The Happiest People On Earth* among many other powerful ministry booklets.

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THE ULTIMATE DIMENSION

DEMOS SHAKARIAN

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Introduction

Demos Shakarian

My dear partner,

In the recent past, I have shared with you special messages on your finances, on an intensified vision for this ministry, and of the need for a special people who can once again behold the glory of God in their lives in this end-time generation!

In this booklet, I'm going to share with you who I believe God's anointed people will be in our end-time generation, how they will be prepared, and how they will walk in awesome power to manifest God's will in these final days before Jesus comes once again.

I'm going to share with you an incredible revelation, a whole new dimension... a dimension so powerful, so staggering, I call it *The Ultimate Dimension*.

When just one person reaches God's ultimate dimension, he or she will be able to do more than an entire army of ordinary Christian soldiers.

The time is short, and God is looking for a few dedicated, passionate people whom He can trust with His ultimate dimension to give the world one final chance to accept Him as Savior.

God has a plan, a worldwide work to accomplish, and He intends to empower His people to fulfill that plan.

I'm writing this booklet to give you a vision for our future, to give you a spiritual glimpse of what we someday will become for God's glory! I sincerely pray that these pages will inspire and motivate you to seek the ultimate dimension that God has to offer.

SECTION 1

OUR PAST... THE BEST STARTING POINT

Sometimes, making a great advance requires going back to the beginning.

What I am about to share with you in this booklet would be difficult to believe if we were not able to witness its truth from the past.

I want to take you back to a time when the awesome power of God clearly manifested itself in the lives of many Christians. *A* time when people (even Christians) were amazed by the knowledge, the wisdom, the prophecy, the visions, and the power of those who seemed to possess a special closeness with Jesus.

On May 25, 1891, my grandfather's brother-in-law, Magardich Mushegan, told my grandmother that, one year from that date, she would give birth to a son.

And on May 24, 1892, exactly one year later, grandmother did give birth to a son (my father) whom they named Isaac—the child of promise.

That prophecy, perfectly fulfilled less than one hundred years ago, amazed nearly everyone who knew of it, even though God made it clear in scripture that His children would be able to prophesy:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17).

When Isaac was eight and the family was still living in the small mountain village of Kara Kala in Armenia, news arrived that one hundred Russian Christians were coming over the mountains in covered wagons.

It was the custom in Kara Kala to hold a feast for visiting Christians. So, grandfather went immediately to his herd of cattle to find a steer to slaughter for the feast, but he could not find a fat one without a blemish.

Although he knew (according to Leviticus 20) that he was not to offer anything that had a blemish, he slaughtered a steer that had a blind eye and hid the head.

When the meal was ready, they all sat down at the table. Before grace could be said, the Russian patriarch raised his hand to stop everything, walked to the barn, and found the blemished head in a sack under a pile of wheat.

Grandfather, shaken and amazed, asked, “How did you know?”

“God told me,” the patriarch responded, and then asked grandfather a vital question: “Do you think that God does not speak to people today as He did in the past?”

That question and that event were the beginning of change for my grandfather!

There was a boy prophet living in Kara Kala named Efim Klubniken. He once persisted in prayer for seven days and seven nights, and God gave him a vision of specific charts and beautiful handwriting. Efim could neither read nor write, but the vision was so clear that he was able to copy down every letter and detail of the charts on paper.

The vision was of an impending, unspeakable tragedy; it was of a warning to flee and a specific place to go for safety.

Some believed, others scoffed, but the tragedy came anyway.

The vision came true for those who believed as well as for those who did not. In 1914, everyone who did not flee was killed or run off into the desert by invading Turks.

God gave this detailed vision less than one hundred years ago. Now, let me ask you:

Did God stop speaking to people less than one hundred years ago?

Did all prophecies come to an end with Efim? Did his death mark the end of heavenly visions?

Of course not.

There is no scriptural evidence for it, and the strong spiritual needs of our dying world justify the continuance of these heavenly, empowering gifts.

But if God has not brought these gifts to an end, then why do so many Christians fail to hear God, to prophesy, or to see visions?

SECTION 2

OUR DIMENSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God's voice was heard by only a few special people.

These chosen few were the patriarchs of the Old Testament: men such as Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, and Joseph, and the prophets, like Isaiah and Ezekiel. These patriarchs and prophets heard from God and would share what God had spoken to them with all who would listen.

But when Jesus was born, we entered a different dimension. Jesus was heard by thousands, and through Him, men and women heard and saw God.

"He that has seen me, has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Jesus gave us a new dimension of spiritual relationship. He brought the words of God, the sound of His voice, the knowledge of Himself, and His touch to thousands who could never have hoped to have so close a heavenly relationship before.

In this closer dimension with Jesus, mighty miracles flowed like rushing water. They were everywhere that Jesus went!

Yet, when Jesus was with us in His flesh dimension, teaching men face to face and doing incredible miracles, many men still rejected Him and did not believe Who He was. Thousands ignored His message and His miracles!

You see, Jesus voluntarily walked in a flesh dimension—a dimension with definable limitations. To see Jesus, you had to be where He was at the time He was there. If you did get close enough to see Him personally, due to the size of the crowds, He may have been a distant figure on the side of a hill. Limitations existed.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, we entered yet another relationship—a new dimension. Jesus promised to “send a Comforter” who would dwell within man and be with him continually. That comforter would be a constant, close companion, not limited by time and space.

We know that this Comforter is the Holy Spirit. He came when Jesus departed, and He is with us now—dwelling in each person who seeks Him and desires His presence.

What a powerful dimension!

In this new dimension, each person can personally hear God speak and have the Holy Spirit dwell within him every minute of every day.

What a change from the first dimension of the patriarchs and prophets, when only a few heard God speak, and the second dimension, when only a few could ever get close enough to see Jesus and hear Him speak.

The first two dimensions were powerful and meaningful in their time, but the new dimension of the Holy Spirit, dwelling right within any person, far surpassed the first two in explosive spiritual breakthroughs!

Beloved, what you are about to read is a spiritual revelation that will change your life. There is yet a more intensified spiritual dimension awaiting us!

SECTION 3

THE ULTIMATE DIMENSION

The ultimate dimension is without limits—a dimension of spiritual power few men have ever experienced. Although it is a dimension available to all Christians in these end-time days, it will be experienced by only a few of God's people.

Up until now, many Christians have been willing to know *something* of God. They have been satisfied to *occasionally* hear His voice, and sincerely believe that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the closest relationship they can enjoy with our God.

But in these end-times, God is seeking a special people who will not be satisfied with anything less than the ultimate that God Himself has to offer.

To understand how we still fall short of that dimension, let me share with you how well the world has done with a poor copy of what God has to offer.

It is a terrible thing to admit, but the world has done more for their gods than we have done for our God—the one and only true God.

Consider the evidence.

For a man of the world, a widget (any product or service that excites a businessperson) may be his god. He believes in his widget.

He works tirelessly for his widget seven days a week for months at a time, and even for years if necessary. He knows his widget inside out and upside down. He tells everyone he sees about his widget. He tells them how good it is, what it can do, and why they should have his widget for their very own selves.

So involved is the businessperson with his widget that he will spare no effort, leave no rock unturned, and use every penny he has in every form so that the whole world will know and accept his widget.

And from his efforts, a worldly “miracle” is often created. Starting from nearly nothing, he produces a fortune, provides jobs, and, at times, becomes internationally famous.

The world’s success with its widget gods is often nothing short of phenomenal. H. R. Perot began his own company, E.D.S., in 1962 with \$1,000. In 1984, he sold it to General Motors for \$2.5 billion!

Now that’s an explosive breakthrough!

Yet, these incredible efforts and successes are not particularly unique. We read about men like H.R. Perot and their accomplishments quite frequently.

Now, let me ask you, do these businessmen have a bigger market or a more desirable widget than the God we serve?

Are there more people who need H. R Perot’s widgets than people who need Jesus? Is any man-made widget comparable to Him?

If we have something better to offer than the world does as well as a marketplace with billions waiting to hear about our Jesus, then why does the world do a better job of presenting their gods than we do of presenting our one, true God?

The answer is simple and right before our eyes.

The world will risk its all when it believes in the widget!

There are always a few, driven, special people who willingly risk everything for their widget. For those few people who sacrifice

and dedicate their lives to their passion, a special breakthrough power is produced that sees them achieve great worldly success.

Sadly, Christians today do not reflect that same zeal—that same willingness **to** sacrifice that many businessmen have for the sake of their products.

But the things the world has accomplished, and even the things God's great men of the past have done, are no greater than the things God has in store for you and for me—for any Christian who is ready and willing and wants to be a part of His ultimate dimension.

The starting place for that ultimate dimension is a decision. Do you want to have more of God in your life?

If you do, then you must be willing to sacrifice and pay the price.

To understand the ultimate dimension, we need to start by seeing something special In God's plan. After man's fall, God began man's regeneration in a step-by-step process of helping man know Who He is. First by speaking through a few special men, then by letting thousands hear Him and see Him as Jesus in the flesh, then by making the Holy Spirit available as a constant companion.

Now, through the ultimate dimension, we are challenged to strive for a **perfect** oneness with Jesus—a total unity with God.

Since the flood, God has been drawing men ever closer to Him with each **new** dimension until man's relationship becomes one with God. When this ultimate dimension is reached, His nature will be our nature, His words will be our words, His knowledge will be our knowledge, His love will be our love, and His faith will be our faith.

When that happens, we will have the supernatural power to work the mighty works of God, to do His miracles, to know His will, to speak His words with confidence and authority, to live without doubt, and to be a true and powerful witness of Christ our Savior!

When we become totally one with God, the world will stand amazed at the miracles we will perform, for we will speak words that will calm storms and have the faith to move mountains!

And we will once again prophesy in specific terms, we will be given His knowledge, we will see detailed visions for the future, and we will hear God speak directly to us... For we will be no longer a partner with God, but one with God.

Up until now, our relationship with Jesus has often resembled the relationship between an employer and an employee. Both share the same basic environment and general objectives, but often do not share the same passion, the same heart, or the same zeal. Because employees are not in ownership, they seldom have the same commitment to the cause as the owners.

Seldom will they sacrifice for the company.

But compare that kind of relationship to the kind of relationship your right hand has with your heart and your brain. Your right hand will do nothing that your heart will not accept and cannot do anything your brain does not direct. Your hand is one with you—a total unity.

That's the kind of oneness I'm talking about in the ultimate dimension with Christ! God has shown us, in the scriptures, that this kind of relationship is possible.

Adam said of Eve, *"She is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh"*

Their relationship was built on a oneness with each other.

But how did that relationship develop? Adam was wounded in his side. Out of his wound, a new life was created. That new life was Eve, and the relationship of that new life with Adam was a bone-of-my-bone relationship.

Adam was wounded in his side to create such a relationship, and Jesus was also wounded so that you and I could have a "bone-of-His-bone" relationship—a oneness that would allow us to leave any other love we had and cleave only to Jesus.

In Ephesians 5:30, Paul reveals that as Eve was of Adam, so we are of Christ.

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

Ephesians 2:5–6 says,

“...has quickened us together with Christ—has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

We are then united with Jesus and made one with Him by God Himself! That oneness is a part of His plan for us!

The ultimate dimension is to be one with Jesus so that we can live as He did, knowing the will of the Father and willing to sacrifice all to achieve that divinely ordained purpose.

The problem with Adam and Eve was not their relationship, but their relationship with God.

But surely, if God has given man the ability to have a bone-of-my-bone relationship with one another, then it is a given that we can have that same kind of relationship with Him. Scripture describes our relationship with Jesus as a marriage—a relationship in which we leave our father and our mother and cleave to one another.

SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING... THE UNSPOKEN WORDS

If we desire to be one with God and wish to have His knowledge, His faith, and His power, then we must also be ready to yield everything we have and everything we are to Him and be willing to sacrifice even as He sacrificed.

Most Christians would agree that they desire to have the gifts of God, but few choose to enter the experience of His suffering.

Remember, God sacrificed His only Son!

If we are to be one with God, nothing we possess (or hope to possess) can ever be so precious that we are unwilling to sacrifice it. In our Christian walk, we learn and read a great deal about prayer, giving, and praise, but little is said about suffering and sacrifice.

We have only to look at the history of the martyrs and see the red trail of blood they so willingly gave to realize how little we have given.

The martyrs were often falsely imprisoned, burned at the stake, and boiled in oil. Who among us has had to suffer so much for Jesus' sake? And who among us *would*?

Jesus sacrificed, and the disciple cannot ever be greater than his Lord! It was through His own self-denial that He accomplished the work given Him to do by the Father.

Too often, the simple truth is that the world is ready to suffer and sacrifice more for its widgets than we are for our precious Jesus.

Paul said, "*For I am now ready to be offered*" (II Timothy 4:6).

Paul faced death for Christ daily. He was stoned and left for dead at Lystra. He was beaten at Philippi. He was willing to be beheaded for his Savior. Paul accomplished much because he was ready and willing to suffer and sacrifice everything for Jesus.

To be prepared in a special way for this end-time hour, we, too, must be ready and willing to suffer and sacrifice all for Him!

The ultimate dimension is a oneness with Jesus—a total unity with God.

As we walk in that dimension, we will know His will, possess His faith, manifest

His love, mirror His nature, and operate in His power!

To achieve that ultimate dimension demands our willingness to yield everything to Him, to suffer and sacrifice for His plans—not at some time in the future, but now!

ENTERING THE ULTIMATE DIMENSION

The ultimate dimension is available to anyone who desires it, but will come only through our dedication, sacrifice, and willingness to obey.

When God asked Joshua to take Jericho, He gave him specific instructions.

Joshua and his men were to walk around the city for seven days, and then, on the seventh day, they were to blow seven trumpets. God promised them that, if they would follow these instructions, the walls of Jericho would come tumbling down.

Now, it is not an impossible task to walk around a city for seven days, and it is a simple thing to blow a trumpet. But it is exceedingly difficult to understand why God wanted these things done. History has taught man that the only reasonable way to defeat an enemy is through arrows, spears, and other weapons of war—not by walking around walls and blowing trumpets.

The very same principle applies in our walk toward the ultimate dimension with God.

It is not difficult to yield ourselves fully to Christ if that's what we truly desire, but it is often hard to understand, when our lives are flowing without persecution or problems, why God should allow circumstances to enter our walk that demand sacrifice and pain.

Smooth sailing is often for the slightly committed, but seldom for the totally committed.

On the shore we are aware of the storms at sea, but they do not toss and turn us.

In the boat, we are one with the storm. As Christians climb into the boat and become totally one with Jesus, then we will have to be one with Him during smooth sailing *and* in the storms.

Why should we risk rocking the boat in a storm?

If Jesus had the boldness to turn over the money table in the temple and rock the boat and we desire to be one with Him, then we too must be willing to do the same!

Jesus said, “*came down from Heaven, not to domine own will but the will of him that sent me*” (John 6:38).

That’s our challenge: to seek and do God’s will, not our own, no matter the cost. Jesus so emptied Himself that He was willing to experience the beatings, the crown of thorns, the scourging at the pillar, and the death on the cross!

Those painful experiences were not His desire, but He knew and understood that they were the will of the Father for His hour.

Jesus set a pattern for His followers so that they, too, might enjoy the special relationship which He had with the Father.

Suffering is part of the spiritual package.

“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ” (11 Corinthians 1:5).

There is something most of us have missed for much of our Christian life, an essence deep within us that few have come to know or understand; Scriptures call it “the spirit man” (1 Corinthians 2:11)—the great “I am” seated deep within every man, just waiting to come alive.

In the ultimate dimension, that spirit man comes to life, and we become one with Him so that our inward witness becomes an outward manifestation of His supernatural power and radiance.

Look how close Jesus was with his Father.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what he sees the Father do: whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner”(John 5:1).

Jesus so emptied Himself of His own desires, His own plans, His own needs, that His one and only goal was to accomplish the will of God Who had sent Him! He lived so close to the Father that He could do nothing that was not in the Father’s will.

Jesus gave the example. God came once to live among us. He gave His Holy Spirit to live within us. Now, He desires for us to be one with Him.

So many businesspeople I talk to think of their lives as revolving from payday to payday.

Instead, we need to realize that our lives are constantly on the very edge of eternity. God came to us from out of eternity into time so that we might know Him and one day soon go from time into eternity.

Ask the Lord to help you see past your daily circumstances of paychecks and other consuming needs and to give you an ever-increasing relationship with Jesus as your consuming passion!

Is the will of the Father absolute in our lives?

Jesus said, *“I speak not of myself but the Father that dwells in me, He does the works”* (John 14:10). So perfectly was the Son abandoned to the will of the Father that He dwelt in Him and spoke through Him—that is being one-with-God!

PASSION AND VISION

What is the thing about the worldly men and their relationship with their widgets that causes them to perform what seem like worldly miracles?

How can one man like H. Ross Perot build a \$1,000 initial investment into a 2.5-billiondollar company while another man works all his life and never even achieves a savings account?

What is the difference between the ones who seem to do great things and those who do not?

The difference is in their passion and in their vision.

When their widget is their passion and the world is their vision, then nothing can stop them. With their passion they will break down any wall, climb any mountain, and even swim in shark-infested waters.

With their vision, they will keep going when those around them tell them, "Give up, your dream is dead."

Passion and vision... that's also the difference between Christians that are little used and Christians that are mightily used.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"(Proverbs 29:18).

Passion and vision make the difference. We must want to be one with Jesus more than anything else.

It is our lack of passion for Christ that keeps us from breaking down barriers and becoming one with Christ.

But how do we get passion?

The answer is simple, like taking Jericho, yet it is difficult, simply because it seems too easy. The answer is no more than this: We must want to be one with Jesus more than anything else in the world.

That was the desire and objective of Jesus.

"I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me" (John 6:38).

Jesus so wanted to be one with God that their two wills functioned as one.

“I do nothing of Myself, but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things” (John 8:28).

Jesus so emptied Himself that He did nothing of Himself—those things that came from the Father!

Man always has a passion for the thing he wants most in life. Have you ever seen a man who had a passion for something he didn’t want?

You can have the ultimate dimension at the very moment that your all-consuming passion is to be one with Jesus.

Jesus did not have a passion to please His own nature, but to do the will of the Father—that was his all-consuming purpose and desire. Jesus was motivated and driven with a single-minded passion: to please His Father.

It has been said of Raymond Massey, who played Lincoln on stage, that he would not be satisfied with his likeness of Lincoln until he was assassinated.

How many of us would not be satisfied with our witness of Jesus Christ until we were crucified?

The world has very cleverly commandeered our words to work their miracles. They know that to do a great thing, they must have enthusiasm and passion. But enthusiasm means “God within,” and God within is a Christian concept.

Yet, look how well the world uses enthusiasm and passion for its own purposes. How often have we heard men of the world say of their widgets, “It’s my life!”

Everywhere I go, I see men in the world consumed by enthusiasm and passion for their products.

Why do so many in the world have enthusiasm and passion?

Because their widget is their dream—their greatest desire, their hope—and they believe intensely that if they will give all they have for their desire, their dream will come true.

I believe we will see a select group of end-time Christians who will become consumed by enthusiasm and passion for Jesus—making Him their dream, their greatest desire, their daily hope!

His vision will become their vision! His will become their will!

These dedicated spiritual warriors will take the world because they will be one with Jesus.

End-time Christians cannot have too much enthusiasm, too much “God-within.”

Enthusiasm and passion for the God Who dwells in us is like the burning bush; a fire that burns intensely but does not consume our substance.

You cannot be burned out by too much of God!

I believe a day will come when our walk with God is so close that, like Moses, our faces will glow with a supernatural light:

“And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone” (Exodus 34:30).

Begin to pray right now that God will give you the desire, the passion, and the all consuming drive to be one with Jesus.

UNIFIED AND ONE WITH CHRIST

When a group of men and women who are all one with Christ come together, there will be unity in their midst because they derive their lives from the same Spirit of God!

They will have the same goals, the same zeal, the same love, and the same willingness to sacrifice for His glory!

Division cannot be a part of their gatherings, for where there is division, there must be some within the group who are not one with Christ.

Jesus said, *“I have given to them the words which You have given Me”* (John 17:8).

If we are speaking the words of Jesus, then we will be united in purpose, power, and passion!

You see, in the ultimate dimension with Jesus, men and women will willingly sacrifice their personal feelings or personal ambitions for the cause of Christ.

If we are to have the best that God has for us, then we, like Abraham, must be willing to put the dearest thing we possess upon the altar and let God have His way with everything we treasure.

If we want to be one with Jesus, if we want to share His crown and glory, then we must be willing and ready to share His suffering. We must allow ourselves to be crucified with Him, giving up all we have even unto death.

If you cannot accept the crown of suffering, you will not receive the crown of glory!

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing’ (Revelation 5:12).

Jesus, Who once was crowned with thorns, is now reigning as King, and on His head are many crowns—power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessings!

We must allow ourselves to be crucified with Him, giving up all we have even unto death, if we are to experience a breakthrough into the ultimate dimension.

In these end times, God is calling for a special people who would be one with God, a people who cannot be separated from

Him though they be hated by the world and persecuted by their friends or family.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:36–39).

So often, so many of us let our work in the world separate us from our work with God. I have learned so much from others. Carey the cobbler, who became a great missionary, once said, “My business is to preach the gospel. I cobble shoes to pay my bills.”

Stradivarius fashioned his violins as if they were “made for eternity.”

The work we do here is temporal, but that which we do for God is an eternal work. We need to pray for that same eternal vision and passion to do God’s work that Stradivarius had for his violins and that Jesus had to do the will of His Father!

AN END TIME EXPLOSION OF POWER!

Men and women walking in the ultimate dimension will manifest explosive spiritual breakthroughs to parallel the explosive breakthroughs we are now seeing in science, technology, and man’s finances.

Science no longer moves in small steps.

There was a time when the word “breakthrough” meant something so outstanding that it amazed people throughout the world. Today, scientific breakthroughs are so common that they frequently are hardly even noticed. There simply isn’t a word available that can convey the intensity and magnitude of the breakthroughs in the world of science.

Perhaps “quantum-breakthrough” is about the best terminology to describe the size of leaps in knowledge we are now experiencing.

Recently, men of science made a quantum-breakthrough by discovering a way to levitate trains weighing thousands of tons. These suspended-in-air trains can travel hundreds of miles per hour with almost no resistance, and transport huge loads of freight and passengers using only a fraction of the fuel normal rail trains use today.

To grasp the magnitude of this achievement, imagine the largest train you have ever seen at the end of a runway getting ready to take off and fly!

These new magna trains will actually be flying only a fraction of an inch above their tracks!

Technology is leaping far beyond our limited imaginations. Recently, I visited the National Inventors Hall of Fame and spoke with Raymond Dalmatian, the inventor of an apparatus to detect cancer in tissue through an electromagnetic wave. The miracle of this discovery is that the wave is free of any dangerous X-rays and causes no damage to man’s system. Raymond told me he had attended the FGBMFI in New York, and that he often called upon God for the breakthroughs he needed as he developed his invention.

Do you see it? He was walking in the ultimate dimension as he emptied himself so that God’s will could be done on this invention! He emptied himself and trusted God to provide the answers. Isn’t that exciting?

During that same visit to the National Inventors Hall of Fame, I also met Wilson Greatbatch, the inventor of the medical cardiac pacemaker. He put his arms around me and told me that he had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and when he needed help with his invention, he prayed!

Because these two men were yielded to God’s Holy Spirit and emptied themselves of their own personal solutions to unsolved problems, God gave them breakthrough discoveries!

Today men go into the countryside, dig up some dirt, separate it, cook it, form it into chambers and valves, and then they open a man's chest and replace his ailing heart with that precise piece of plastic.

They then repair the man's flesh-heart and replace it. This quantum leap in surgery did not exist ten years ago.

Even end-time finances are different than before.

Only a decade ago, becoming a millionaire was a noteworthy feat. Today, there are more than a hundred new millionaires in America every week! The new measure of worth is a billionaire—1,000 times a millionaire!

Businessmen are making money in unprecedented amounts. The man who engineered the sale of Nabisco made a hundred million dollars on that one transaction alone!

To see these developments from a spiritual perspective, it is not the breakthroughs themselves that warn us we are in the end times: it is the intensity and magnitude of the breakthroughs!

For example, Scripture tells us that when knowledge increases, earthquakes increase, and famines increase, then the end times are here!

Did you know that there have been more major earthquakes in the last twenty years than in the last century?

Of course, we've always had earthquakes. But it is the modern-day intensity and magnitude that sets this hour apart.

One hydrogen bomb—just one—can do the destruction of hundreds of atomic bombs. God is telling us something. The time is now! Get ready!

He's about to unleash an explosion of quantum breakthroughs in our spiritual walk!

Just as we have seen gigantic leaps in the natural world, we will see explosive spiritual breakthroughs in the ultimate dimension where one person will do more for God in this end-time hour than an entire army of ordinary soldiers!

Jesus walked with an intensity and magnitude of miracles never before seen on this Earth. Yet, this mighty Man has told us, *“As thou sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world”* (John 17 :18).

Not only has He sent us, but He has said we shall do His works even greater!

Do you realize the implications of that statement? We are to function in a power level even greater than the one Jesus manifested almost 2,000 years ago!

These men and women Jesus was speaking about function in the ultimate dimension. They will prophesy in specific terms, and their prophecies will come true. These men and women will hear God speak directly.

These men and women will once again pray for the sick, and the sick will recover!

The end-time signs are clearly here, just like the gathering storm clouds during the days of Noah just before the flood.

Now is the time for the ultimate dimension.

Now is the time when God will raise up His special group of chosen people who are willing to suffer and sacrifice to become one with God until the magnitude and intensity of their end-time witness will produce a quantum breakthrough revival the likes of which this world cannot even imagine!

God is seeking and preparing a special end-time people—a people willing and ready to make quantum-breakthroughs in their spiritual lives.

The time is here for major spiritual breakthroughs for God’s people. It is a time when we will better understand the things of God, a time to see great visions, to possess enormous miracle power, and to witness like the early church martyrs.

OUR OLD HORSE, JACK

Sometimes, little changes in our lives can make huge differences, but even small changes come hard for most of us.

For years, our old horse Jack used to take our family to church every Sunday morning. But finally, one day in 1925, Dad put old Jack out to pasture and replaced him with a shiny new black Studebaker.

It was time for change.

Can you imagine us trying to go to church today along our Los Angeles freeways with old Jack?

New times often demand new methods.

Today, despite the quantum leaps we see in the natural world, the body of Christ is often trying to impact our generation with old Jack. The world is skyrocketing into the twenty-first century while many denominations and individual Christians are slowly plodding along on old Jack, watching the world and lost souls pass them by.

Let's be very frank.

Many churches and denominations were slow to accept and use the telephone, the automobile, and the airplane. Today, many still do not understand or utilize the computer—one of the major time-saving devices of our century!

But a walk in the ultimate dimension requires modern-day men and women willing to change and utilize all the technology and science available to bring the message to a dying world. This includes satellites, television, newspapers, and magazines.

But how do we do it?

By emptying ourselves just as Mr. Greatbatch and Mr. Damadian, the famous inventors, did, and just as our Savior Jesus Christ did. We must seek only His will in our lives in every single circumstance, whether it be an invention to benefit man or a business that might provide tithes and offerings to help further God's Kingdom.

We must use every single resource with passion and enthusiasm if we are to impact this world before Jesus comes again!

Over the years, I've had to make many major changes in my own life—one of the largest being in the area of healing.

During the first 24 years, our Fellowship believed in healing, but we did not put the same strong emphasis on healing and miracles that we do today. It was in 1961, while I was attending the World Pentecostal Conference in Jerusalem, that I experienced God's miracle healing power in such a personal way that it made a major change in the Fellowship's direction.

While we were gathered in the vestibule before one of the meetings, a lady came up to me. She was pulling along a crippled man with her. He was a pitiful sight! His body was at a right angle to his legs. He was so bent over that his body paralleled the floor and he walked by clutching a cane with both hands. I couldn't even see the man's face.

The lady turned to me and said, "Mr. Shakarian, this man needs your help." She explained that she had found him living in a lean-to outside the city. He had asked her to help him get into the auditorium because he had heard that Jesus was healing people there. When they learned that every seat was taken, someone suggested they speak to me.

My heart went out to the little man, and I decided to give him my badge. When I bent down to pin it on him, I heard an unmistakable voice say to me, "Demos, you are to pray for his healing right now."

I was taken aback. Here?

Now?

With the vestibule full of high-powered Pentecostal leaders from all over the world?

"You, Demos. Right here."

I said to the man, "Do you believe Jesus can heal you?" "That's why I came," was his answer.

So, still on my knees, I spoke in the man's ear, "Sir, would you let me pray for you right now?" For his answer, the old man rested his head on his cane and closed his eyes.

"Dear Jesus," I said, "we thank You that You made the lame leap for joy here on these very Judean hills. Today, Lord, another lame man is coming to You—one of Your chosen ones. In the name of Jesus, I command all the pain to leave his joints so he can stand straight!" Instantly, I heard something snap.

At first, I was afraid the fragile little man had broken something. But the groan that came from him was one of release and not pain. Slowly, he straightened up and gazed triumphantly into my face. From all around us came a chorus of praise.

I took his walking stick. "In His strength only!" I proclaimed. And sure enough, shuffling a little at first, he began to walk with his spine straight and his shoulders erect.

That's the power God has for us today!

That incident only happened because at that moment I emptied myself of Demos Shakarian and obeyed the will of the Father. I heard His voice, and I acted.

That's what Jesus did when He walked the face of the Earth, and that's what He wants us to do today!

God does not want us spiritually crippled, living in a lean-to outside the city. By becoming one with Jesus, we can throw away our canes and do the mighty miracles God intended us to do.

Be open to change. Let Jesus be your life. Be willing to give all you have to Him so that He can give His all to you. *"If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done to you. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you"* (John 15:7–9).

I pray that the spiritual revelation contained in this scripture exploded in your spirit-man as you read it! That's the total message of this book: Abide in Jesus, let His words abide in you, then ask for the sick to be healed, and they will be healed; then pray for

financial blessings, and you will be blessed; then seek family restitution, and your family will be restored!

Christ has clearly given us the secret of His own blessed life! He has given us the secret to the ultimate dimension in John 15:7–9.

Commit that scripture to memory.

Let it become part of your life, your passion, and your everyday living. If you do this, the ultimate dimension will soon become a part of you.

I believe this Fellowship can walk in the ultimate dimension if we will just put aside any differences between us and yield ourselves totally to Him right now, seeking just one thing—to become one with Jesus, and to have the same relationship with the Father and the world that He Himself had when He said,

“I have given them the words which You gave Me” (John 17:8).

“As You have sent Me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

Having received the same words and the same commission that the Son of God Himself received, what kind of people should we be? We must become one with Jesus, filled with enthusiasm and passion and the faith to manifest God’s spiritual gifts to others, as well as the zeal to go out into the world and use His gifts to climb any mountain, swim any stream, cross any desert, or tear down any wall in an effort to tell everyone about our Jesus!

I believe you want to become one of God’s chosen servants in the ultimate dimension, so right now, in the Spirit, let’s agree in prayer for your breakthrough.

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth to walk with us. We thank You for

sending Your Holy Spirit to live within us, and now Lord, we thank You for allowing us to become one with You—to walk in Your power, to operate in Your wisdom, and to perform Your miracles so we might be mighty end-time witnesses for Your glory! Lord, I ask in a very specific way that You empower these precious partners so that they desire You above all else, so that they are willing to suffer and sacrifice for Your glory, and so that they might serve you in this end-time generation. Lord, we love You, and praise You, and give You all the glory for everything You will do through this life. Amen.”

A NEW WAVE OF REVIVAL

**in
Your
Finances**

DEMOS SHAKARIAN

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Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

P.O. Box 5050

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My dear partner,

Many of the more popular messages on Christian finances today sometimes seem to contain confusing, even contradictory, teachings. I believe there is widespread misinformation in the body of Christ concerning God's intent for our prosperity.

In this booklet, it is my desire to share with you I the things God has shown me through His Word about finances. Many of these revelations will drastically differ from much of what is being taught about finances today. I only ask that when you experience an area that seems to contradict the popular beliefs about finances, please seek God in prayer and study His Word for your answers.

That's what I did, and this little booklet is the result. My only desire is for you to know all God has and desires for you, and that includes your finances!

We serve God with our minds, we serve God with our bodies, and we can faithfully serve God in our finances.

But we do not serve a formula God.

There is no place in scripture where it says, "Give a dime and get a dollar," but that's what is being taught.

Scripture does not say, "You must give money to get money," but that concept is being taught.

When it came time to pay taxes, Jesus sent the apostles out to catch a fish, and the tax money was in the belly of that fish. You see, God is not limited by how He brings funds into your life. To simply state that you must "plant money seeds" to receive money is not consistent with how the ministry of Jesus functioned.

Beloved, I pray this little booklet will open your heart so that the Holy Spirit can reveal to you the loving nature of our God and help you understand His principles for a balanced and proper walk in Christian finances.

In His end-time service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amos".

P.S. When you complete this booklet, please write and share with me how this book has touched your heart. God bless you.

SECTION ONE

GOD'S PROMISES DEPEND UPON RELATIONSHIP!

When you desire to buy a particular brand of gum, you can simply walk up to a vending machine, put in your 45 cents, and pull the lever.

Presto—you have gum.

The formula for getting gum from a vending machine is very simple: if you put 45 cents into a slot and pull the proper lever, you will receive gum. Beloved, that's the way it works with vending machines, but that's not the way it works with God!

Our Heavenly Father is not some magical vending machine in the sky Who is patiently waiting to pour out His blessings upon all of us who discover His secret formula for financial success.

God makes many marvelous financial promises in scripture for those who give to His purpose, but none of these promises will ever be fulfilled when they are taken out of the context of relationship.

The first thing God requires from anyone Who serves Him is relationship.

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

“This is the first and great commandment”

(Matthew 22:37–38).

Beloved, you can pay your tithes and give your offerings faithfully for fifty years, but if you are not in a prayerful, holy relationship with your God, then do not expect God to pour out a heavenly blessing in return for your giving!

Unlike the cold steel vending machine, God demands more than the fulfillment of a few simple steps; He demands relationship.

“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience”

(Luke 8:15).

Giving without a relationship with God, will not produce abundant financial fruits in your finances.

That statement is so vital to your understanding that I want to repeat it again: Giving, without a relationship with God, will not produce abundant financial fruits in your finances.

Even if you follow all the famous formulas touted by the “prosperity” preachers, even if you tithe, and even if you give generous offerings, that’s not enough!

If your heart is not in union with God’s heart, if your life is not in relationship with God’s law, then you are foolishly planting financial fruit on non-productive ground.

“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels”

(Luke 9:26).

God looks at your heart. No simple biblical formula on giving will ever result in prosperity unless your heart is pure.

“Therefore, if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift”

(Matthew 5:23–24).

Notice the priority. Get your life in order first, then come back and give to the Father.

Here’s another misconception: being a rich Christian must mean that God is favoring your life.

That’s not completely true.

Certainly, God can give wealth to those He knows will make good stewards, but wealth in and of itself is not a sign that you are a good Christian.

God is not impressed with your wealth. He created everything on the face of this Earth, and He has no particular respect or admiration for those who manage to accumulate a greater portion of His wealth than most.

God looks at your heart and only determines your “richness” or “poorness” based on your relationship with Him!

When a rich man was troubled about where to store all his wealth, God answered,

“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”

“So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”

(Luke 12:20–21).

When Jesus left this Earth, there was nothing in any of the apostles' writings that talked about the great fortunes He left behind, yet the things...

"...which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen"

(John 21:25).

Today, there are actually prosperity teachers who claim that Jesus was indeed wealthy, and since He was the "pattern son," then we, too, should strive to be wealthy.

How do they document this?

Well, after all, they say, Jesus had a cloak the soldiers desired (so it must have been well made and costly). He had a treasurer in His ministry, He let precious oils be poured over His head and feet (instead of selling the oil and giving the money to the poor), and He had rich ladies who were patrons of His ministry.

From these flimsy examples, these misguided teachers conclude that Jesus was not against luxuries and wealth, and He desires for you to have luxuries and wealth too.

Nonsense.

Jesus is not interested in your wealth.

He is only interested in how you use it!

Any Bible scholar knows the story of the servants and the talents. The good servant was rewarded not because he made his Lord rich, but because he was faithful and used the talents the master gave him.

"And he said unto him, Well thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in very little, have thou authority over ten cities"

(Luke 19:17).

When Jesus “...sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury” (Mark 12:41), He noticed a poor widow as she threw in her two mites. When He witnessed this, He called to His disciples and said,

‘Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury.

‘For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living’”

(Mark 12:43–44).

Jesus was not impressed with the size of her gift, He was impressed with the size of her heart—her willingness to give all she had for the work of the Lord.

Before we can begin to discuss how God’s Grace can change your finances, you must examine your own heart to determine if you put God first in every area of your life.

He comes before any attempts to reap rewards in your finances.

He comes before any job or hobby.

He comes before the Sunday afternoon football game or the latest edition of *TIME* magazine. In my own life, He had to come before my prospering dairy business.

God must be first in your life. Then, all other things will follow from that relationship.

“I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”

(Exodus 20:2–3).

If you want your finances to improve, and if you truly desire to be about God’s work of reaching lost souls through the financial enablement He will bestow upon your life, then repent now of any

wrong emphasis in your life and prayerfully ask God to put your heart into His divine order.

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

(Matthew 6:33).

THE NEXT PRIORITY

Once you have asked God to purify your own heart and have acknowledged that He is definitely the first priority in your life, you must then begin to understand his next priority:

“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets”

(Matthew 22:39–40).

If I asked most FGBMFI members how they spend their money, I’m sure I’d get answers like this:

“Demos, there just isn’t much money left to spend after I make my house payment, my two car payments, my credit card payments, my utility payments, and the tuition payments for my daughter going to college.”

Now, do not misunderstand me.

There’s nothing wrong with having a house, nice cars, or sending your young daughter to college. But our payment priorities do reflect how quick we are to meet our own needs first.

Jesus commanded us to give our neighbors a position “as thyself.”

When you are squarely in God's will, then you will find yourself starting to be as responsive and as caring about the needs of others around you as you are to your own family.

One nun probably understands and practices this biblical principle better than most of us ever will. Mother Theresa has spent her life taking care of her neighbors in need; she now has hospitals and care homes in fifty-two different cities. Her sisters have ministered to patients with leprosy and AIDS—the outcasts of society. The financial needs of these humble nuns have been met, but not through the “planting of financial seeds.” God has sent them money in unusual ways (for example, through a special Nobel peace prize) because He sees their hearts!

You see, God not only commands us to love our neighbor; He goes even further than that! Here's perhaps the toughest task, the true challenge, and the absolute acid test of our day-to-day Christianity:

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and perse cute you;

“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

“For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?”

(Matthew 5:44–46).

We must have an obedient relationship with God.

That's the key to your prayer life, your spiritual growth, and your financial freedom in God's heavenly plan. Jesus clearly stated that He expects a relationship with you and expects you to care about and have relationship with others before He releases the promises of His Word into your life.

*“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask
what ye will, and it shall be done unto you”*

(John 15:7).

SECTION TWO

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH, GOD'S BLESSING

A few decades ago, most Christians believed that to be spiritual, one needed to be poor. Today, that attitude has changed. Now many Christians believe that if you are wealthy, then you are simply receiving the abundant blessings God has for His children.

Neither teaching is correct.

Many poor people are spiritual, and many rich people are children of God, but I find no concrete evidence in scripture that clearly shows God prefers us either way. Rich or poor, He looks at our heart and cares only about how we handle our circumstances and our relationships with others.

Let me say this another way.

The richest man on the face of this Earth and the poorest man on the face of this Earth could both occupy the same place of honor in heaven. Wealth (or lack of wealth) will not carry one bit of weight in the final judgment!

Now, let me clear up a few simple misconceptions about money.

Misconception Number One:

Being poor is somehow godly.

Scripture states repeatedly that God does indeed want to provide for our needs, and has a marvelous inheritance for us as His children:

“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...”

(2 Peter 1:3).

Poverty will not change your inner man or make you more godly in any way. If your inner man serves Jesus Ch.rist, then you are a godly man. Poverty has nothing to do with it!

Misconception Number Two:

Wealth indicates if a person is godly.

Being rich has its own set of problems. Jesus never commands us not to have earthly wealth, but He does warn about the priorities of our heart:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”

(Matthew 6:19–21).

Just as poverty is no indication of our relationship with God, wealth also offers no proof of a godly life. Again, only the inner man, and the motives of the inner heart, can reflect our true relationship with God.

Misconception Number Three:

There is something evil about money and finances.

Money is not evil. This false concept comes from a common misquote of one specific scripture. The actual scripture reads:

“For the love of money is the root of all evil...”

(1 Timothy 6:10a).

You see, once again it is a matter of the heart, a matter of priority, and a matter of relationship. In fact, here is a statement that might shock many of you: God gave us the power to get wealth!

That’s right. It is clearly stated in scripture.

“But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant”

(Deuteronomy 8:18a).

Prosperity, like money, is neither good nor bad.

Money and wealth have no feelings, but simply assume the heart of their users.

One hundred dollars in the hands of a drug addict will become “bad money” used to buy drugs.

The same \$100 in the hands of a saint can become “good money” used to help finance an outreach for lost souls.

God *did* give us the power to get wealth, and He *does* care how we use that power. If we use it only to satisfy our own selfish ends, then we are misusing our stewardship and not honoring God.

But if we use our wealth to establish His covenant’, then our money can glorify God and save countless souls from the eternal fires of hell.

Now that you understand that it is God who gives us the power to get wealth, I’d like to share with you some of the key biblical principles God has shown me that will enable your finances to increase.

FIVE STEPS TOWARDS GODLY FINANCES

STEP ONE: Work hard.

“Brother Demos,” you might say, “that’s not a biblical principle, that’s common sense. Why are you stating the obvious?”

Because to some modern-day Christians, working hard is not a criterion for financial blessing. Many believe that if they just stay in their homes and pray, “Oh Lord, send a financial blessing to get me out of this mess,” that they have done all they need to do to claim God’s financial abundance.

But that’s not what God’s Word says:

“I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; “And, lo, it was all grown

over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down”.

(Proverbs 24:30–31).

You see, God does not bless the slothful. If anything, God encourages us to work hard, and to do so without constant supervision.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

“Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

“Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.”

(Proverbs 6:6–8).

Most Christians I know work hard and are able to work without close supervision. But I felt led to state the obvious here to counteract some of the false teachings currently circulating the body of Christ.

You must work to eat, and you are expected by God to provide for your family. The Bible places a high priority on this:

“But if any not provide for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”.

(I Timothy 5:8).

STEP TWO: Be liberal to others.

This seems like a very strange statement.

How can you accumulate increasing finances if you are liberal to those around you? This godly principle often confounds the thinkers of our world, but it is directly in line with scripture:

“There is [he] that scattereth, and yet in creaseth; and there is [he] that withholdeth more than is fitting, but it tendeth to poverty. “The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself”.

(Proverbs 11:24–25).

Management consultants are just now discovering the truth of this biblical principle.

They are advising employers to implement profit sharing plans that benefit the employees.

When Danbury Plumbing Supply Co. (in Danbury, Connecticut) implemented a 15% “mini-bonus” pool for employees, productivity and company profits soared. Now their sales per employee are about \$400,000—twice the industry average. Danbury Plumbing “scattereth” their income to the employees, yet their profit “increaseth.”

Have you ever worked for a company that paid below the norm for the industry? What happened? Because they “withholdeth more than is fitting,” they probably ‘tendeth to poverty’.

We must first be liberal with our finances before God will release a liberal flow back to us. That’s why Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship has flourished over the last three decades. We care deeply about the needs of others and have willingly given to bring the lost souls in the world to Jesus Christ!

“Give [first], and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure [stingy or liberal] it shall be measured to you again”

(Luke 6:38).

STEP THREE: Put your finances into good, worthwhile projects that can bless others.

When you liberally put your finances into good ground (such as in your tithes, offerings, and projects to help improve the lives of others), then God can better bless your giving.

The Living Bible (in 2 Corinthians 9: 6–7a and 10) discusses both the importance of being liberal and the necessity to work in union with the Spirit of God so you can reap a financial increase:

“But remember this – if you give little, you will get little.

“A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.

“Every one must make up his own mind as to how much he should give.

“For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant, and make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.”

The gospel of Jesus Christ is centered otherwise.

If you desire to increase your financial holdings for your own personal gain with no intention of helping those around you, then God cannot honor your heart, and He will not multiply your finances.

Have you ever noticed how well the world understands this biblical concept?

Think about the commercials you watch on TV. They are all oriented towards you and your needs. They promise to meet your need to feel better, look better, smell better, eat better, or improve your ways of having fun. They are extremely other orientated in their pitch, and people buy their products.

Unwittingly, they are applying the biblical principles that command us to care about our neighbor.

STEP FOUR: Recognize your enemy and your authority over him.

Nothing makes the devil happier than to see poverty in the body of Christ! If you are just able to make it, or if you are barely able to pay your own bills, then how will you have any money left to invest in the fields of God?

Your finances, like your prayer life, your marriage, your job, and your spiritual growth, must be dedicated to God and covered with the same spiritual principles you apply to these other areas.

You know you have power over Satan for deliverance. You know you have power over Satan in your marriage. You know you have power over Satan in your spiritual growth. Now you know you must have power over Satan in your finances.

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”

(Luke 10:19).

You have the power to conquer the devil’s desire to keep you in bondage to your finances!

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself like wise took part of the same ; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death... the devil”

(Hebrew 2:14)

Again.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God [relationship], resist the devil, and he will flee from you”

(James 4:7).

And again.

“Nay in all things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us”

(Romans 8:37).

Recognize that Satan is your enemy.

Your bank is not the problem. Interest rates are not the problem. Your boss is not the problem. Your finances are simply another area where you must wage aggressive spiritual warfare if you desire to break the bondage of Satan over your checkbook!

STEP FIVE: Recognize that God wants you to receive.

The ministry of the apostles depended partly upon the generous hearts of Christians in each city for their food, lodging, and necessities. Today, God wants to empower His people with enough financial ability to continue bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. In these days of television, satellite transmissions, and the microwave, a fisherman’s net and a few loaves of bread will not bring the gospel to five billion people.

Resources are necessary and vital; God wants His people ready to receive so they can give a portion of their gain back into the work of the end-time harvest!

“God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others”

(2 Corinthians 9:8 TLB).

I’ve heard so many misguided Christians say, “When I give to God, I do not expect anything in return.”

You should. God gave to you, expecting to receive. He gave His Son, expecting to receive more sons. He gave His Holy Spirit, expecting you to receive the power and peace to be a better witness to others. He wants you to give expecting to receive more funds so that you can give even more to His precious works.

God needs faithful stewards—holy people He can count on. He already owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Now, He's looking for righteous stewards to properly distribute and direct that wealth to the needs of others. If you desire to be one of those faithful stewards, then give expecting to receive so you can give joyfully to others.

SECTION THREE

KNOW YOUR HEART

When your heart and your financial desires line up with God's word, then He can begin to enrich your life for His Glory!

“Truly I say to you, whoever says to cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him.

“Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray, and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you”

(Mark 11:23–24 [NASB]).

For your business to succeed or for your job to bless you abundantly in financial gain, begin with the proper prayer and the proper heart. Then ask God to grant the desired finances you need, pledging to use a portion of what He returns for His glory.

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”

(Matthew 6:33).

“All these things” can include financial blessings if that is your desire and if God deems your heart is ready to receive.

It is not enough to pray, “Oh Heavenly Father, bless this business deal I’m making.” This prayer leaves no room for seeking God. It simply tells God you have already decided on the deal, you have set it into motion, and now, as a final precaution, you are asking Him to bless it.

Instead, you need to be seeking God during every phase of every transaction. Your prayers should diligently seek God’s will in the matter. You might instead pray, “Oh Heavenly Father, I pray this business deal is in Your will and will glorify You. If there is something I am not aware of that might make this matter not in your will, then Lord, I ask You to stop it. My only desire is to stay in Your will in every business transaction I make. So please bless this transaction if You want it to prosper and stop it if You don’t. Lord, either way, I give you the glory. Amen.”

Before every major business decision I make, I seek God’s guidance. When I was buying and selling real estate, there were sometimes four pieces of property for sale at a busy intersection. Rather than trust everything to my own ability, I’d do my homework, study the real estate reports, and seek God for the final answer. Even if three of the four properties were bad investments, God would always guide me to the one good investment on the four corners!

God knew my heart. He knew that a portion of my income would always go right back into His work in the FGBMFI. Part of the reason I’ve been able to serve as the founder and president of the fellowship all these years without taking a salary is because God has blessed my real estate and dairy ventures—not so Demos can have more, but so Demos can better serve Him in bringing lost souls to Jesus Christ.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon”

(Matthew 6:24 [NASB]).

Notice the wording. You cannot serve God *and* Mammon. But you can serve God through the mammon He gives to you!

God knows your heart.

If you are now in a difficult financial situation, view it as a time of learning, like any other physical, emotional, or family problem you face in your life. Through the difficult experiences, God can better prepare us for the victories!

“Therefore, I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory”

(Ephesians 3:13 [NASB]).

When the apostle Paul wrote this, he knew his tribulations were because he was stepping squarely on Satan’s territory. And he knew that, as God’s servant, the victory would be his in the end!

That’s the heart we need to have today when we are bombarded by unpleasant circumstances. Interest rates cannot defeat you. Bank applications cannot defeat you. A cantankerous boss cannot defeat you. As you walk in God’s will, your finances will begin to flourish.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose”

(Romans 8:28 [NASB]).

When you love God, and when you dedicate your finances to His purpose, then all things will work together for you, including your finances!

God knows your heart and he sees your actions. You may say the right things and pray the right prayers, but God can see beyond your words and your prayers into the innermost man.

And, of course, He watches your actions.

“But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth”

(1 John 3: 17-18 [NASB]).

The biblical goal of financial blessings is not selfish gain and worldly treasurers, but the ability it gives us to take care of our own family and to help meet the needs of others.

That’s the reason God wants to enable us with adequate finances—so we can help establish His covenant, which is spelled out in Genesis 12:2:

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing.”

God blesses you.

Why?

So that you can be a blessing to others! That’s the covenant.

By now, you have probably noticed that in this entire booklet on godly finances I have not once entered any long discussion on planting seeds, watering the seeds, planting them in good ground, waiting for the harvest, and then reaping what was sown. There have been volumes written on this biblical process, and there is

absolutely nothing I can add to it. There is a certain validity to the biblical principles of planting and reaping, but far too much emphasis has been placed on the formula of financial success—that is, using these steps as the God-given way to riches.

That's not a balanced approach to what God's word says!

This booklet has attempted to bring some balance into the current teachings on finances. Unless the priorities we've discussed here in terms of relationship and heart are part of your spiritual constitution, then forget the formula of tithes and offerings. It won't work in your life!

Nothing in God's financial plan unfolds without proper relationship and a true heart for His glory!

“But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness”

(1 Timothy 6:9-11 [NASB]).

Yes, God can bless your finances.

But first, He is looking for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. To reduce God's formula for financial success into a simple sowing/reaping cycle denies the reality of God's word.

It is more than sowing and reaping.

It is a relationship.

It is heart.

It is our Christian love—one to another.

Behold
the Glory of God!



DEMOS SHAKARIAN

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Foreword

The legacy of Demos Shakarian includes much more than the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International: the greatest Christian laymen's organization in the world!

A part of that legacy is also the charismatic movement that has swept into practically every Christian organization on the globe.

It also includes this booklet, *Behold The Glory Of God*, which calls Christians to holy living.

This, in turn, will bring the shekinah glory of God to the church and the world!

Cordially yours in Christ,

Vinson Synan,

Chairman of the North American
Renewal Service Committee

**BEHOLD
THE
GLORY OF
GOD!**

by

**DEMOS
SHAKARIAN**

Introduction

My dear partner,

A few months ago, when I was ministering at a breakfast meeting in Albany, New York, the anointing of God came down so strongly that I simply could not find the words to continue preaching. Instead, I yielded the meeting completely to the Holy Spirit and invited the 580 men and women present to come forward and experience God's anointing, power, and glory.

Everybody left their seats in unison and moved to the front, open and ready to receive the glory of God into their lives.

As I prayed, men and women fell to the floor, unable to stand under the presence of God. His shekinah glory was so powerful that these saints fell prostrate on the floor in adoration, reverence, and prayer!

That time of overwhelming anointing was very special. But beloved, let me tell you clearly with the strongest words I can muster: that day was only the beginning!

I see a time when the intensity of God's glory will dominate our Fellowship meetings and conferences just like His presence dominated a youth meeting I witnessed at the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when 200 young men and women took off their shoes in the presence of God in the crystal ballroom.

The Holy Spirit was so powerful in that ballroom that the youth ‘ – fell on their faces before God for two solid hours!

Rabbi Robins was with me that day. As we walked through the auditorium and saw the radiant faces of these precious young people, we beheld the glow of God! The rabbi said to me, “Demos do you know what that is? That’s what they talk about in the Old Testament. That glow on their faces is the shekinah glory of God!”

Then he started to cry.

There was absolutely no preaching during this sacred time of divine presence; all of us were simply submissive and sublime under the awe-inspiring power and glory of our Lord. The presence of the Holy Spirit permeated every fiber and cell of that entire room.

You couldn’t cross the auditorium to reach the other Side because a bluish, heavenly haze hung in the auditorium air.

Beloved, that’s the type of glorious day I see returning. There will be a day when entire ballrooms will be bursting with people from all over the world—people flying from Nigeria and saints driving from Canada to experience the power of God in their lives.

Heed my words.

They are not just fiery slogans to try to inspire you. They are a mighty message from God: the precise revelation He wants me to share with you now during this critical end-time moment in spiritual history.

During these first months of 1988, I’ve been diligently praying and fasting—seeking God on the Fellowship’s direction for the year. The vision that keeps entering my mind, my heart, and my spirit is that we will soon witness an increasing intensity of God’s glory!

I see the great glory of God about to be unleashed upon this Earth! God stands ready to open our minds to give us His peace, His joy, and His glory!

But the path to these heavenly experiences here on Earth is not easy.

The only way to God's glory is through holiness.

Quite frankly, holiness is not a very popular message nowadays, but it is the scriptural truth! Despite many false teachings today, the Bible is eternally clear on what moves God.

The amount of money you make will not impress God. The size of your business empire will not move God.

What moves God is our being cleansed by the blood of Jesus, being yielded in our hearts as servants to Him, and living pure lives as He has commanded us to do.

When we accomplish that, then God will pour out His power and glory upon us!

Today, through this booklet, I want to challenge you to open your heart to Him, receive His truths, and let God pour out His Spirit in your life. Through this booklet, you will discover that there's a divine pattern to God's glory that flows through both the Old and New Testaments. In this booklet, I will reveal to you the biblical progression of preparation that leads to God allowing His glory to flow upon the Earth.

Do you want the glory of God in your life? Do you want His presence?

I believe you do.

And, when you receive the glory of the Lord in your life, He will meet your every need. He'll heal your body (that's what gives me the strength to go around the world). He'll heal your pains. He'll change your life.

I've prayerfully sought God's revelations as I wrote this booklet. Now, I can only pray that you will open your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to show you that becoming a purified saint cleansed by the blood of Jesus is the divinely ordained pathway for receiving His glory.

May God bless you as you receive His words.

In His glorious service,
Demos Shakarian

P.S. Please note that the words on these pages are not a simple Bible study; they are the path to a new way of living—a new source of power for your daily living and testimony.

Please read this booklet in a prayerful state and with an open heart.

And God will mightily bless you!

“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle”

(Exodus 40:34–35).

SECTION ONE

OLD TESTAMENT GLORY

The way to God is through holiness.

Holiness is achieved through purity.

In the Old Testament days, the way to become pure was through a blood sacrifice. Animal blood was the vehicle used to cleanse men of their sins. That’s why, when the angel of death saw blood, he passed over the houses of those inside.

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass thro4gh to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you”

(Exodus 12:21–23).

Do you see the process here? First, it took the blood of the lamb. Then, that blood had to be individually applied to each house to protect it.

Finally, with the blood as a cover—a protection—the destroyer would not come into the house and cause death.

The objective of the animal blood sacrifice was clear: to act as a cover, to purify the recipient, and to atone for our sins.

The first step for receiving the glory of God in the Old Testament is to be cleansed by a blood sacrifice.

In the time of Moses, God said to build a tabernacle where He could dwell among His people.

To prepare for this tabernacle, God asked for an offering from those with a willing heart.

“Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: who-soever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass,

And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and tine linen, and goat’s hair,

And rams’ skins dyed red, and badgers’ skins, and shit-tim wood,

*And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and
for the sweet incense,*

*And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and
for the breastplate.*

*And every wise-hearted among you shall come, and
make all that the LORD hath commanded”*

(Exodus 35:5–10).

Can you imagine the screaming in a meeting today if I challenged our men to meet the commitment God demanded of them in the Old Testament?

I wonder how you would react if I said, “Now’s the time for the offering. If you are a willing saint, then come forward now with your money, your stocks, your bonds, your best linen, your best clothes, and any precious jewelry you might have brought with you. Wedding rings, gold chains, diamond earrings—God wants it *all!*”

Why, if I said that in a meeting, probably about half the room would walk out in disgust, convinced that “all Demos Shakarian cares about is money.”

The other half would stay, but only out of curiosity—anxious to see what crazy stunt I was going to pull next!

But that’s precisely the way God took an offering in the Old Testament—and His people responded.

*“And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and
every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought
the LORD’S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the
congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy
garments”*

(Exodus 35:21).

If you study these passages among others in Exodus 35, you will notice two adjectives keep reappearing: “wise-hearted” and “willing-hearted.” Scripture tells us that the builders of the temple were so willing and wise-hearted that Moses had to stop them from giving any more of their material wealth to God.

“And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much”

(Exodus 36:5–7).

O Heavenly Father, I pray there will come a time in our Fellowship when that spirit of willing generosity permeates our every action. We need materials, manpower, and tools to build our outreach, just as Moses needed them to build the ark.

They built the ark from an abundance of materials and precise instructions. God told Moses how to build the ark: so many cubits this way, and so many wide, and so many deep, complete with the Holy of Holies, the inner chamber, the incense altar, the pillars—everything down to the last detail. When they neared completion, they...

“ ...made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD”

(Exodus 39:30).

Do you see it?

The Lord had commanded His children to build the tabernacle and had given them specific instructions for every single part of the building. When the temple was done, God commanded His children to write one thing in that tabernacle, and He wanted it in all capital letters (check your own Bible): HOLINESS TO THE LORD!

Holiness, above all, is important to God.

After the tabernacle was prepared, God called for a priest.

“And thou shalt put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office.

And thou shalt bring his sons, and clothe them with coats:

And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest’s office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations”

(Exodus 40:13–15).

Through His priests, they then gave a sacrificial offering.

“And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.”

(Exodus 40:29).

After the Israelites made these sacrifices, the glory of God came into that tent!

And it was powerful.

It was so powerful that even Moses could not walk into the tabernacle because of the presence of God.

“And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle”

(Exodus 40:35).

Beloved, let's be very honest about our walk with God. Today, so much emphasis is placed upon the loving and understanding nature of God—a God always ready and willing to forgive our mistakes—that we often forget that He has another part to His nature: a part that despises and detests that which is not holy.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness”

(I Chronicles 16:29).

Here's the plain biblical truth: God does not want anything to do with those who are not holy.

“For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy”

(Leviticus 11:45).

That's why he commanded the animal blood sacrifice—to atone for the sin in their lives and make them holy in God's sight.

Solomon built a temple, and God told him to bring trumpeters and singers in to celebrate the day.

“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course:

Also the Levites which were the singers... having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar; and with them a hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:).

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals, instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD.

“So that the priest could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: tor the glory of the LORD had-filled the house of God”

(II Chronicles 5:11–14).

This passage shows us so much about God’s nature and about what pleases Him.

The splendor and glory of God was so great that when they were sanctified and unified as one, singing, praising, and thanking the Lord, the entire house of God filled with a bluish cloud and the priests could not stand up to minister!

Praise was vital to the service.

The Old Testament priest met God in the Holy of Holies, but the necessary prerequisites to this miraculous encounter were thanksgiving and praise.

“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise”

(Psalm 100:4).

Through our prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, the same power Moses experienced when he was instructed to build a tabernacle

where God could dwell amongst his people can exist in our lives today.

But please release all your preset expectations of what prayer and praise should look like in your meetings and conferences.

There is no set formula for praise! Scripture never tells us we must “do this” or “sing that” to praise God. Our Heavenly Father allows for diversity, spontaneity, and freedom of expression in our praise to Him.

So should we.

Those who exhibit one expression of praise, such as the lifting of hands, are no farther along the road to divine glory than those who choose to march in the spirit or those who prefer to praise God with closed eyes while sitting down.

God wants us to be free to express ourselves, free to praise Him, in the manner that is comfortable to us. After all, look at the multitude of instruments God enjoys:

“Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

*Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD”*

(Psalm 150:3–6).

Praise and worship are vital elements in creating a personal temple where God can dwell in His glory.

And what powerful glory it is!

Whenever Moses communed with God on the mount, his face would glow as he returned to his people. The radiance was so

bright that he had to cover his countenance with a veil to protect those who gazed at his face!

“And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai... the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face”

(Exodus 34:29–34).

Later, when the Israelites worshiped God in the tabernacle, the presence of God was so overwhelming that Moses couldn’t even walk into their tent.

“And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle”

(Exodus 40:35).

From our Old Testament study, it soon becomes very clear that God had certain actions He expected to be done before He revealed His glory to His people:

1. He would not have anything to do with those who were not holy, and the way to holiness required a blood sacrifice to atone for sins.
2. Through the presence of a priest, an offering was presented before God.
3. Praise and worship created an atmosphere that prepared the temple for the habitation of God’s glory.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him...”

(Revelation 1:7).

SECTION TWO

THE GLORY OF JESUS

In the Old Testament, God’s children lived under the Mosaic Law. Today, the moral absolutes of God have not changed. Just as He did in the days of the Old Testament, He still expects us to be pure and holy.

But God has a new, superior way to shower His blessings upon us—it’s called Grace.

Through the Mosaic Law, God administered His eternal and moral absolutes in an external manner. The moral heart of the law was written on tablets of stone. Each new generation of Israelites came under the same administration of the law by virtue of physical birth to Israelite parents and external circumcision, not by virtue of an internal change.

Mosaic Law did, however, emphasize the need for an internal change. In section one, we saw how a willing heart was important

in giving. The Mosaic Law asked for internal change, but it did not produce that change in and of itself.

By contrast, through grace, God administers His eternal and moral absolutes in an internal manner. The new law consists of a law in the heart; it is a new nature produced by an internal change through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The new law is not written on tablets of stone; it is placed in our hearts (the inner control center of Christians).

Several New Testament passages show that Jesus Christ, through His first coming, established grace as the new way of God's administration. I will refer to a couple.

The Apostle John wrote the following:

“For the law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”

(John 1:17).

The new era of grace began with Jesus Christ. The old law was a ministry of condemnation, death, and wrath.

“But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away.

How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, how much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory”

(II Corinthians 3:7–9).

We live in a different day! Romans 6:14 says, *“For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law but under grace.”*

Christians today no longer need to give a blood sacrifice.

We are no longer under the old law. Jesus Christ came to Earth as the pure lamb of God and gave Himself as the final blood sacrifice for our sins. We now enter the holy place through His sacrifice.

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh”

(Hebrews 10:19–20, NAS).

God demands holiness, but man can never make himself holy. That’s why God sent His Son, the pure lamb of God, into this world through the virgin Mary. God the Father brought Jesus here, and He was sacrificed on the cross.

His blood was sprinkled. His blood was poured out like in the days of sacrifice in the Old Testament. It is through this ultimate act of love—this blood sacrifice—that Jesus cleansed our sins.

If animal blood can cleanse sins under the old law, how much more can the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse us and prepare us for glory?

“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

(Hebrews 9:13–14).

We have something much better than-animal blood—we have the blood of Jesus; the blood of the Son of God. How much more will God respect His own Son’s blood? He will not only pass over us, but He’ll pour out His Spirit upon us, open our minds, and give us peace and joy.

The blood of Jesus covers all our sins and washes our hearts. When we admit and confess our sins to God, we get rid of those sins and come under the blood.

God has given us a new covenant!

The first-century Jews were a unique people. They had many covenants in the Old Testament with God, including those God made with Abraham (Genesis 17:1–2, 9–14) and with the people of Israel (Exodus 24:1–8). Unfortunately, as is the nature of man, the Jewish people persistently broke the covenant by their sin. In time, God (through the prophet Jeremiah) promised a new covenant. The new covenant would be inward and would be founded on divine forgiveness.

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with-the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my Jaw in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people”

(Jeremiah 31:31–33).

When Jesus spoke of His blood inaugurating the new covenant (Luke 22:20, NAS), He was saying, in effect, that a whole new way

of approaching God would be revealed by His death. He was saying that the living church—not the physical Israel—was the true covenant people of God.

Today, every saint who believes in Jesus Christ and serves Him is part of that covenant and functions in the order of a priest.

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen”

(Revelation 1:5–6).

Today, the animal sacrifice has been replaced by the blood of Jesus.

Today, the external temple has been relocated into our hearts.

Today, we no longer need to look to the distant priest to petition God for us. Each of us is now ordained to personally interact with God!

Today, because the old law has been replaced with the new law, we can expect to see the greatest manifestation of the glory of God in the spiritual history of man!

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

(Hebrews 1:3).

SECTION THREE

THE GLORY OF THE END-TIME DAY

Not only did Jesus willingly stand as our final sacrifice, but He now waits, willing and ready, to appear in the presence of God for us!

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...”

(Hebrews 9:24).

I see great glory coming!

As you read this booklet, I want to challenge you to come completely under the blood by repenting of any sin remaining in your

life so that you can prepare to behold the glory of God in your own priestly temple!

God wants to send His glory into our meetings with such power and presence that our people will not be able to stand!

But before that happens, we must let His blood wash our sins and hearts.

It is time to rid ourselves of all sin that comes between us and God; it is time to come under the blood.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world,

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”

(Titus 2:11–14).

Open your heart to him, totally and completely, today. I see great challenges and great victories coming. I see

God pouring out His Spirit.

Believe what I’m telling you. This is His way.

Get right with God, because God is saying, “Repent of your sins. Allow Me to purify and cleanse you, because I want to bless you-. I want to pour out My glory. I want to show you My shekinah.”

“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: 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”

(II Peter 1:3–4).

In these days of mounting troubles, when divorce hits both Christian and secular homes with the same intensity; when child abuse, alcoholism, and drugs are now a major part of our culture; when pornography and abortion kill the lives and the spirits of human beings; when our Christian leaders often lead by high-sounding words, not by example; then only the power of God can solve the multitude of moral problems on the face of this Earth.

Legislation won’t do it. Picketing won’t do it.

Nothing but the power of God can save us.

But how will these backsliding Christians and atheists know His power unless they see it? When a non-religious person sees the glory of God come upon men, they will be frightened, repent of their sins, and get right with God.

When nonbelievers experience God’s power and glory, they repent!

That’s what happened to Saul when he experienced the glory of God on the road to Damascus. It so shook his entire being that he lost his eyesight.

“And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus”

(Acts 22:11).

God can use His glory to bring witness to the doubters, and He can use His glory to prosper and bless you and heal your body. His glory gives me the strength to go around the world because the Spirit and power of God is inside of me!

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”

(Romans 8:18).

We are His living temples, and what we are now experiencing (and what we will soon be experiencing with increasing intensity) is only a feeble reflection of what we will experience for all eternity!

Look at how John describes heaven in Revelation 21:22–26:

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.”

I believe God has placed this revelation in my spirit because He wants to send more of His power, His anointing, and His glory into our lives, just as He did in the days when Solomon built a temple and God told him to bring trumpeters and singers in to celebrate the day!

“...the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD.

So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God”

(II Chronicles 5:13b–14).

The splendor and glory of God was so great that the assembled congregation—unified through singing, praising, and thanking the Lord—caused the entire house of God to be filled with a bluish cloud and the priests could not stand up to minister!

They praised God.

Beloved, I can see a day When every FGBMFI convention is united through singing, praising, and thanking God—when every auditorium becomes a house of the Lord, when the air is filled with a bluish cloud so that we cannot even stand up to minister!

Praise Him constantly. Prepare yourself for your chapter meetings, your conventions, and your airlifts by spending time in prayer and worship. Scripture tells us that praise and worship should be a steady, continuous part of our lives: “...giving thanks always for all things” (Ephesians 5:20).

Paul and Silas even praised God from their jail cells.

“Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them”

(Acts 16:24–25).

Praise establishes an environment into which the Lord desires to come. He entered the jail cell of Paul and Silas and freed them of their bondage.

Why? Because praise is His normal, comfortable habitat in heaven, and it is the earthly environment in which He feels free to manifest His presence in power.

We were created to praise Him!

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light...”

(I Peter 2:9).

That “marvelous light” is the same power of God we experienced at the crystal ballroom, and it is the same power Moses experienced when he was instructed to build a tabernacle where God could dwell amongst His people.

Today, it is the same presence of God that will empower you!

In the days of Joshua, the ark was the manifested presence of God. But before the ark could be passed in front of the people, there was one command:

“And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you”

(Joshua 3:5).

Today, God manifests Himself through us. We are the ark! We are the temple. When we sanctify ourselves, God will manifest Himself in glory! After Joshua sanctified himself, God took him across the Jordan river and gave him a new land, and signs and wonders followed him and his people.

“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city”

(Joshua 6:20).

Do you see it? Are you ready to take your city, and our land, for Jesus? Are you ready to move forward in signs and wonders?

If you are, we must sanctify ourselves.

Repent now of every single sin in your life.

Prepare to receive His overflowing shekinah glory.

In faith, begin to believe you can experience His glory in your life.

“Jesus said unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”

(John 11:40).

Jesus stood willingly as our one, holy, complete, and final sacrifice. Now He waits, willing and ready, to appear in the presence of God for us!

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”

(Hebrews 9:24).

Right now, I want you to say this prayer out loud, with a willing heart, to our Lord and Savior. Allow Him to prepare you to behold the glory of God.

“O heavenly Father, I know there are certain sins in my life. I’m ready to kill them now. I’m ready to destroy them.

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I kill the idols in my life, ending this thing between you and me and getting rid of those things in my heart that I have resisted destroying for so long.

“Lord, cover these sins with your precious blood.

“Forgive me my sins, Lord; purify and cleanse me and let Your glory and Your presence come into my life right now.

“Lord, open my heart to receive the power of God in my life.

“I receive healing.

“I receive Your anointing now, in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Come Let Us Exalt Him

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COME LET US EXALT HIM

**By
Demos Shakarian**

“The Lord is my strength and song,
and He is become my salvation:

He is my God,
And I will prepare him a habitation;
my father’s God,
and I will exalt Him.”

(Exodus 15:2)

“O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us Exalt His name together”

(Psalm 34:3)

INTRODUCTION

Stephen EXALTED Jesus!

One night, as I was praying in my home, seeking the mind of God, I asked the Lord a question particularly pressing on my heart:

“Father, what is the next step you want the fellowship to take as we enter this turbulent end-time hour?”

As I continued to pray and worship the Lord in exultation, seeking his answer, a very vivid biblical scene came to me, as though it were an unfolding drama I was watching.

What I saw was vivid and real, as though I were watching it live (I had been praying that God would give me the ability to see and describe his word in a clearer and more graphic fashion, that he would allow me to express and see it in a special way... I believe that I saw that what I saw that night that night was an answer to that prayer.)

I saw Saint Stephen (who had the honor of being the church's first martyr) as he preached, prayed, and ultimately as he experienced the stoning which led to his death.

What a clear vision God gave me of that incident!

I saw these stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears (Acts 7:51) the priests and rulers adorned in their fancy gold-threaded robes; they did not appreciate Stephen's strong and anointed preaching, yet Stephen stood boldly declaring God's word to these men with hardened hearts, warning them that they needed to stop resisting the Holy Ghost:

“Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your father's did, so do you

“Which of the prophets have not your father's persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One: of you of whom you have been now the Betrayers and Murderers” (Acts 7:51-52)

Can you imagine Stephen's boldness?

He called the priests “betrayers and murderers.” Stephen's words are mainly a recital of Old Testament history, climaxing in a stinging rebuke for their murder of Jesus.

As he spoke his courageous indictment, the word tells us his face “shown” like that of an Angel.

“And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as it had been the face of an Angel.” (Acts 6:15)

I saw in my spirit how the faces of these priests and rulers grew red with rage, angered by Stephen's holy boldness. I saw their sandals move restlessly in the sand, kicking pebbles and dirt as they listened.

I saw Stephen's face literally, glow as he looked toward the heavens and declared,

“Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56)

As Stephen exalted Jesus, and his worshipping increased, so too did the anger of the priests and rulers, standing nearby.

Suddenly, they could not listen to the heavenly exultations any longer!

They exploded into a raw animal rage and started to attack Stephen as though he were a rabid dog, even holding their ears so as not to hear his continued praises and exultations.

“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord.” (Acts 7:57)

I watched this vivid scene unfolding in my mind as these out-of-control men surrounded the serene Stephen,

Hitting him,
Punching him,
Spitting upon him,

Their anger was without reason, their hatred without provocation.

While Stephen’s eyes remained fixed on the face of the heavenly Jesus, who was sitting at the right hand of the Father, while Steven gave continuous praise and worship to God, the devil grew angrier and more desperate.

Finally, as the stoning increased, Stephen died as Christ died, without a trace of resentment toward his contemptible murderers.

“And he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord lay not this sin to their charge, and when he had said, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:60)

As I saw this scene, as I witnessed Stephen's faithfulness, as I heard his praises to the heavenly King, I too began to exalt Jesus.

In my own personal praise to God, I began to feel a bit of what Stephen must have felt, special sacred closeness with almighty God. As I entered into my own time of intense praise and worship, the Spirit of God came upon me, in a special way, and said:

"Son, there are two things that I want you to do:

- 1. Tell the men to exalt Jesus.**
- 2. Start airlifts within the cities of the United States.**

God said,

"If the men will exalt me, if they will fix their eyes upon Me, I will pour out my spirit upon them, unlike anything they have ever experienced before. But remember, this mighty outpouring of my Holy Spirit is spiritually linked to the exalting of my son Jesus."

That's a direct result of the sacred experience that night, as a direct result of that simple but spiritually significant revelation, I have felt compelled to write **Come Let Us Exalt Him** so that you could know the full measure of what God intends for you in this end-time hour.

Men, God is calling those of us in our fellowship to lift our heads up toward the heavens, to see Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father and to exalt him with all of our hearts, no matter how angry the enemy gets, no matter how strongly the devil tries to stone us for our intensified praise and worship!

God is calling for men who are pure in their hearts and minds, men who are forgiving to their enemies, men who are willing to be

washed in the blood of Jesus Christ (For only the blood of Jesus can make us pure and holy).

God is calling us to repent of all our sins, to accept the reality of the blood of Jesus Christ, to accept the total, complete cleansing he offers through the power of the blood, the blood of the Lamb of God.

That night, when I saw the graphic vision of Stephen, the more I exalted Jesus, the more I fixed my eyes on Jesus in the heavenlies, the more I received his blessing, anointing and revelation.

As you read this book, I believe that same anointed blessing and revelation will flow into your life.

So, join me now as I share with you some of the spiritual truths God has birthed in my spirit. Together, as we keep our eyes fixed squarely upon Jesus, let us come together, in one spirit and proclaim **Come Let Us Exalt Him.**

Demos Shakarian

“Exalt ye the LORD our God,
And worship at His footstool,
For He is holy.”

(Psalm 99:5)

CHAPTER ONE

EXALT THE LORD!

What a joy it is to exalt the Lord!

Even though I am now in my 70s, I never tire of talking about Jesus, and I never grow weary of exalting His Holy Name.

Look how much he first loved us!

He left the ivory palaces of his Father’s realm and came down to earth to meet our every need.

He cared about us first – Before we even dreamed about caring for Him.

He came down to earth to find and rescue his lost sheep before his wandering sheep even knew they had strayed far away from the path of salvation!

He lived in a hostile world which did not invite Him, and yet that same world cannot survive in peace without Him.

Oh, how I exalt the Lord for sending the Christ of Calvary so that we might know the Christ of Eternity!

No matter how many times I tell His story – whether I share it with thousands of businessmen at a world convention or whether I tell it to the person next to me in a small room – it never pales. Each telling reveals once again the infinite riches of His love and mirrors the mighty magnitude of his mercy and grace.

When we exalt our Father, when we exalt King Jesus, when we exalt his precious Holy Spirit, we begin to experience the sacred glimpses into his nature and ministry, and our souls and hearts somehow become more miraculously filled with his divine love.

This book is written to praise the **ALL-SUFFICIENT** Jesus Christ!

His Power for Your Victory

Do you realize that in his three short years of earthly ministry, Jesus contacted every type of humanity and came to grips with every conceivable problem which has fastened itself upon mankind?

Just for you.

Every day, He wrestled with the enemy of men's souls, raising up the arm of his power against the demon forces of evil. Since the fall of Adam, the devil has brought misery and untold suffering to the hearts of men. Yet through Jesus, one by one the enemies of God were faced and one by one they were soundly defeated!

Just for you.

Christ was and is more than enough for every emergency. He triumphed in every battle fought for the deliverance of sinful men, and He triumphs today in the lives of his people all around the world.

No matter what circumstances you are facing right now – be it a severe business problem, a failing marriage, an unsaved loved one, a son or daughter in bondage to drugs or alcohol, or a staggering financial devastation – no matter what you face, begin to exalt

the Lord Jesus Christ with the pure and repentant heart and he will give you victory over your circumstances.

You have the same tools for spiritual victory that Jesus used when he walked the earth!

When he was tempted, Jesus used the same power to defeat the devil in his life that is now available to you and me! Jesus was tempted on the mount of temptation, and the devil tested and tried to make Christ Jesus, the man, fall into sin. But Jesus came down from the mountain, the complete victor! On that mountain, it is important to notice the real battle, the real issue in the confrontation between the devil and Jesus was one of **“Who do we worship?”**

SATAN’S LIE TO JESUS

Satan challenged Jesus by saying

“...All of these things will I give thee, if you will fall down and worship me” (Matthew 4:9)

To which Jesus replied,

“...Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10)

All of your battles in life can be defeated by first understanding that the key to victory is knowing who you worship.

Never let the devil deceive you with his shallow lies. The spiritual battle is over – **“Who do you serve?”**

Today, as you read this book, no matter how big your mountain of problems might be, God wants you to walk down your mountain

of problems, triumphant in soul, conquering the very forces of hell in the process through the power of worship.

After Jesus stood his ground, declaring he would only worship “the Lord God,” Satan left Him:

“Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him” (Matthew 4:11)

After the devil left, God received the worship and sent His heavenly angels to minister to Jesus and give him love.

Keep telling the Story

That is why I never tire of telling his incredible story of love. I never weary of exalting the Lord Jesus our God. The story of Jesus is the ever-unfolding story of a heavenly father’s love for his children. It is a story that displays the manifestation of his power and glory, a power so majestic that the very devil trembles at the sound of his name.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou does well, the devils also believe and tremble.” (James 2:19)

As you exalt the Lord today, realize that ***all of your strength is in Jesus***. Without Him, you would be as helpless as a particle of dust mercilessly tossed to and fro by a raging wind.

Christ is your all, and he will meet your every need through His ALL-SUFFICIENCY in every department of your life.

JESUS WAS SUFFICIENT FOR SIN

Jesus Christ is the only man, since the time of Adam, who was never stained by sin or corrupted by iniquity. When all of the forces

of hell were marshalled in battle against the sinless Christ, they failed miserably in attempting to wreck the whole economy of God's redemptive plan.

This anonymous poem sums up how the victory on Calvary only came through the victory on the Mount of Temptation.

Jesus set us – the captives free
to pay the price of sin,
he alone, could unlock the gate
of heaven to let us in”

Jesus set us – the captives – free!

Let us exalt the all-sufficient Christ who is able to meet every need of our soul. In His strength, and by His power, we can live a victorious life.

Let us exalt him because He is the Creator.

“...Thou Lord, in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth; (Hebrews 1:10)

Let us exalt Him because He has made us.

“...the brightness of his glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High;

(Jesus) Being made so much better than the angels, as He had by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

“For unto which of the angels said he had anytime, thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will

be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? (Hebrews 1:3-5)

Let us Exalt Him and cry out,

“Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; For thou hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth” (Isaiah 25:1)

CHAPTER TWO

JOHN, DO YOU REALLY NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In the 40 days between the resurrection and ascension, Jesus made at least 10 recorded appearances to his disciples. He did this so he could abolish forever from their confused minds any doubts as to his continued existence – to his being a living, real person.

Can you imagine what a wonderful experience it must have been for the apostles during those 40 days to walk and talk and eat with Jesus in his actual risen, glorified body? He appeared and disappeared through closed doors.

He materialized out of nowhere, and then disappeared back into the void.

On the 50th day after Jesús's resurrection and the 10th day after his ascension into heaven, was Pentecost. Pentecost was the Jewish "feast of weeks", also called the "feast of harvest" or the day of first fruits. The Jewish Pentecost fell on the 50th day after the feast of Passover. (Leviticus 23)

You need to remember that Pentecost was a Jewish religious celebration before it became a Christian celebration. The 50 days that the Jews were celebrating were the 50 days that followed the Passover.

What happened in that upper room on that Jewish Pentecost as detailed in Acts 2 literally transformed the Jewish festival of Pentecost into a Christian celebration – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the upper room marked the beginning of the Christian Church.

The Holy Spirit glorifies and Exalts Jesus

In that upper room on the day of Pentecost, these words came into actuality through a mighty, miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation that will glorify God beyond anything ever experienced before by man.

God has allowed me to see the entire Pentecostal day described in Acts 2 as clearly in my mind as I saw Stephen's death. He has enabled me to even visualize that day in very specific detail.

In the following pages, I would like to describe for you the conversation that might have taken place on that Pentecost Sunday. (as though I was given the assignment as a Christian reporter to cover the spiritually historic event)

In writing about Pentecost in this unusual manner, it is my sincere hope that you will better understand and feel the spirit and the attitude of the 120 disciples on that first Christian Pentecost.

We are standing at the bottom of the steps leading to the upper room where the apostles had been praying and fasting for seven days in obedience to the command of Jesus to wait for the promise of the Father. (Acts 1:4)

In this early morning, the disciples were starting to come once again to the room, including the two Marys and Martha. One by one they climbed those stone stairs that lead to that upper room.

I am standing at the bottom of those stairs, hoping to interview the various people as they pass me. (interviewing them, not as Demos Shakarian, but as an interested reporter there to cover the events and scenes which will unfold that day) Here comes Peter.

“Peter, can I talk with you?” I ask as he starts to climb the stairs.

“Sure,” he says, looking a bit perplexed.

“Where are you going?” I question

“I’m going to the upper room to pray and exalt the Lord,” he answers

“What do you expect to happen today?” I then question.

I expect to receive the Holy Spirit promised by My Master Jesus Christ was his confident reply.

“Peter, how can you be so bold to think you can receive the Holy Spirit?”

“Why not?” he questions

Well, I continue, you denied the Lord three times. You didn’t believe in your Master. When He needed you most, at the time of his earthly trial, you denied Him. You cursed. How can you expect to receive the Holy Spirit now? I ask him in my toughest reporter tone.

Peter is not daunted by my question.

Looking very confident, he replies, **“It is because I denied Him that I need the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that I shall never deny my Master again.** He’s already washed my sins in His blood, and now, on this day of Pentecost, I’m going to receive power through the Holy Spirit

Without saying another word, and sure that he had answered all of my objections, Peter walks up the stairs to the upper room.

Just as Peter entered the historic room, Thomas, starts to climb the stairs.

Excuse me, Thomas, may I talk with you for a moment” I ask “where are you going?”

“I’m going to the upper room to pray and exalt the Lord,” he responds

“What are you expecting to happen there?” I ask.

Well, my master told me to go to the upper room and pray and worship him so I can receive the Holy Spirit,” he replies.

“Certainly YOU don’t expect to receive the Holy Spirit,” I retort in a reporter-like fashion.

“Yes, sir, I do,” Thomas responds just as quickly.

“Why?” I ask.

“Because my master told me I would”, he answers

“Yes, but you’re such a doubter,” I challenge. “You did not believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead – you said you needed to see the print of the nails in his hands and to thrust your hands into his side to believe. You were one of those who could not take the word of the other disciples when they told you they had seen Jesus.

“That’s true,” Thomas replies. **“That’s all the more reason why I need the Holy Spirit now. When I receive the Holy Spirit, I shall never again doubt my Lord and master.** So, I’m going up to the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit.”

I watch in amazement as Thomas climbs the stairs. It was the man who so doubted the son of God that only when Jesus showed him his hands and his sides did he finally cry out “My Lord and my God”. Only when Thomas saw Jesus in person did he call Jesus God and now here he is going to the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit because Jesus said so. This time he believes in full faith, without needing any further proof.

The next man to come down the stairway is John the beloved.

I am a bit awestruck as I stand before one of the greatest writers of the Bible. Here is a holy man with a pure heart who has been so close to Jesus that at the Passover feast John lay on the breast of Jesus:

“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples whom Jesus loved, (John 13:33)

“John do you mind if I talk to you?” I ask.

“Why of course not he replies”

“Where are you going?”

“I’m going to the upper-room to pray and exalt the Lord” he answers

“What are you expecting to happen today?” I questioned.

“I’m going to receive the Holy Spirit,” he answered joyfully.

“John, do YOU really need the Holy Spirit?” I challenge.

“After all, you are one of the best writers in the Bible. You have an excellent memory of Christ’s ministry on earth, and you know more about Jesus than anyone else. Why do you need the Holy Spirit?

“Well, because my master told me I did.” he replied, “and that’s enough for me. **I want staying power to be able to go forward and do my master’s work without wavering.** I am through being a fisherman; my only job now is to be out in the field working for him. Receiving the Holy Spirit will strengthen me for that work.”

Then John goes to the upper room to lift up prayers and praise to the Lord.

Praise and Unity of Spirit

During the course over the next half hour, 117 other people from various backgrounds flooded into the upper room, each knew very well the strengths and weaknesses of the other.

Peter could have easily looked at Thomas and said “What are you doing here? You don’t belong here – you are a doubter”.

But he did not.

Instead, he kept an attitude of praise, choosing to exalt the Lord.

Thomas could have easily looked at Peter and said “Peter you cursed the Lord when you denied him – you don’t belong here with the rest of us.”

Instead, he gave praise and exaltation to God.

On this day, the apostles did not indulge in petty character assassination. They knew that each one had weak spots and they

understood that all of them needed to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

So, they did not bicker or argue.

Instead, they all came into a prayerful spirit of unity in their hearts.

They cried out in one accord “Lord we exalt you as our Lord and King, please come now through your Holy Spirit and strengthen and empower us. We need your Holy Spirit.

We are now in the upper room talking to Mary, the mother of Jesus. “Mary, you have listened to Jesus so much. You know all the wonderful things he talked about. You are a holy woman. Why do you need this time of prayer and praise? Why do you need the Holy Spirit?”

Because, she answers in her patient and loving tone: prayer and praise bring me every ever closer to my precious son and **He said if I received the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit would quicken to my heart all things he told me and he would even tell me more. I want him to keep talking to me.**

Yes even Mary the mother of Jesus, the holy woman, came into a time of unity, prayer and praise in one accord to receive the Holy Spirit.

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14)

And then:

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.” (Acts 2:1)

And again,

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47)

Through this visualization of the day of Pentecost, I hope that you are beginning to see that the Christian Church was born on Pentecost because the spiritual leaders of the church chosen by Jesus were willing to submit themselves to the Lord through continued prayer, supplication and praise exalting the Lord for the wonders of His being.

From that time of submission and praise, the Holy Spirit felt welcomed by a climate of humble hearts ready to receive all that Jesus had for them.

“Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders”

(Psalm 107:32)

CHAPTER THREE

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Prayers and songs shot straight up to heaven as the 120 people in that upper room united their hearts and their voices to magnify, glorify and exalt the Lord. As each person poured out love to God, one could almost feel the spirit of God being attracted to that room in a miraculous way – being seduced by the sweet spirit of their praise to come closer, ever closer, to the hungry hearts crying out for a touch from their heavenly Creator.

Psalm after Psalm rolled off their lips in worship and adoration to the heavenly Father.

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting, Amen and Amen (Psalm 41:13)

In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. (Psalm 44:8 NIV)

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth” (Psalm 47:1-2 NIV)

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. (Psalm 48:1 NIV)

Songs and Psalms skyrocketed toward the heavens, each more sincere and pleasing to the Lord’s ear than the last. The crescendo increased to such a fever pitch of worship that all 120 of the disciples were on their knees, tears in their eyes praising, praying, exalting, beseeching the Lord to show himself to them, to manifest his power and his love upon them.

These 120 disciples were passionately and desperately in love with their Lord, and as they praised him they hungered for a touch from his Holy Spirit.

The sudden shocking explosion of loud thundering sounds not made by human voices brought silence to the 120 in the upper room, and snapped everyone to stiff attention.

Then they heard the roar of a rushing wind like a mighty hurricane-but this roar thundered **INSIDE** the upper room!

It permeated the entire place.

The noise came straight down from the ceiling.

In the midst of their praise and the rushing wind there appeared bright red tongues of fire; while each person knelt, overwhelmed by this mighty manifestation of God, tongues of fire parted asunder on each of the apostles.

Jewish Celebration Disturbed

In another part of the city, thousands of Jews had gathered to celebrate Pentecost. Church historians believe there were tens of thousands of people in Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts of Passover

and Pentecost. They had their lambs, their food ready to spread on the table to celebrate the great feast in memory that their forefathers had put the blood of the lamb on the post and the death Angel came and passed over their houses.

The priest paraded around in their beautiful robes and pompous, gold – leaved garments reflecting the wealth and high honor that came with their positions

They strutted back and forth, everybody bowing to them as though they were somebody important. even their shoes, were of a beautiful handmade leather.

They were the kings of that day.

Quite a contrast to the fishermen. The tax collectors. The ordinary layman Jesus picked to lead his flock. You could smell the fowl scent of the sea in their hands – hands knarled from the handling of the fishing nets. Their bodies bronzed, from the sun.

Rough men. Unrefined. Working people. Lay people, in that upper room, were humbling themselves before their exalted God. Suddenly in the midst of this Jewish celebration the rabbis and priests hear a mighty wind. A frightening experience. Thousands of Jews who heard that noise started moving like ants toward the upper room as though they were attracted by a large mound of sugar.

When the fire set upon these humble laymen in the upper room, they suddenly started speaking in tongues.

Peter stood up and started to preach.

Of course, the Jews did not know it at the time but, this powerful, supernatural manifestation of wind and fire and the heavens opening was a public proclamation to the world of the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

It was proclaimed both to Jews and Jewish proselytes the symbol that Jerusalem for their Jewish Pentecost (from all the countries of the known world-15 nations are specifically mentioned in Acts 2: 9-11)

And yet the Jews heard these Galilean apostles speaking to them in their own languages!

And all these people from the 15 different nations marveled, saying “How can these Galileans speak my language?” The apostles were speaking in different native languages, as though they were raised in the various nations and intimately knew their languages. Where did this supernatural power to be understood by all come from?

It came from Jesus.

And it started with praise and worship to the almighty King.

The apostles spoke in tongues, magnifying God exalting God, in the spirit. They exalted God so much that it shook the entire city.

Jerusalem Transformed

3000 people receive Jesus Christ as Lord and savior the first day.

“Then they that gladly received this word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about 3000 souls. (Acts 2:41)

Then at another time 5000 more men were saved.

“Albeit many of them with which heard the word believed, and this number of the men was about 5000 (Acts 4:4)

And at another time, multitudes both men and women

“and believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both men and women (Acts 5:14)

They “multiplied exceedingly,” including a great company of priests from inside the opposition ranks.

“And the word of God increased. And the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7)

Some of the disciples were so vocal and bold in their preaching that many observers declared “these men are drunk.”

But they had not been drinking for these were not drunken as you suppose “seeing it is but the third hour of the day. (Acts 2:15)

Peter explained to the observers that the disciples were not drunk, but that they were full of the spirit of God just as the prophet Joel had foretold

“and it shall come to pass in the last days says God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams and I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs in the earth beneath” (Acts 2:17-19)

Soul-saving effects of Pentecost were lasting. As a direct result of their continued prayer and praise on the day of Pentecost, and thereafter, an evangelistic outreach broke out that continued until it changed the world:

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47)

Why Not The Priests?

Now you may wonder, why did not God fill those Jewish priests with his power on that Pentecost Sunday? Because you cannot put new wine of the Holy Spirit into old wineskins. They had not spent time in prayerful preparation, praying and exalting God in one accord. God made the disciples new, just like he makes us new creatures today, and he fills up his new wine skins with his best wine. That is what he did with the 120 disciples-, them with the new wine of the Holy Spirit. The men watching the miraculous transformation of the apostles cried out, “What shall we do to be saved?”

“Repent and be baptized” was the apostle’s answer.

That is why 3000 were converted in one day 5000 in another.

Men, **Pentecost happened because the apostles gathered in one accord to pray and exalt Jesus.** As they prayed and praised in that upper room the Holy Spirit moved, and the world was changed forever.

Watch closely in this end-time hour.

The same miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit is about to be released in our day in a way unlike any we have ever seen before. It will be released through the same attitude as the disciples manifested at Pentecost – an attitude of prayer and praise and exultation above all to the mighty King and Creator of the universe!

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams

Acts 2:17

CHAPTER FOUR

WILL YOU GO ANYWHERE FOR GOD?

In the Old Testament, wherever Elijah went, Elijah would follow. When Elijah went to Bethel, Elijah declared:

“As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.” So they went down to Bethel. (2 kings 2:2)

When God sent Elijah to Jericho, Elisha again declared:

“As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.” (2 Kings 2:4)

When God sent Elijah to Jordan, again Elisha followed:

“As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.” (2 Kings 2:6)

When Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted before he was to be taken away, the faithful Elisha replied:

“I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me”
(2 Kings 2:9)

Elisha wanted Elijah’s mantle, and through his faithfulness, he received it.

He too was able to smite the waters, and they would part:

“And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.” (2 Kings 2:14)

Many prophets ridiculed Elisha for following Elijah’s footsteps so steadily, but in the end, these same men bowed themselves to the ground before him.

Men, Elisha is a type of Christ and you and I are like Elisha.

We must refuse to leave the side of the Master.

We must so hunger for His anointing on our lives that we seek a double portion of His mantle.

We must be willing to withstand the ridicule and the laughing from those around us who disdain any Christian principles.

Men, we must be prepared, like Elisha, to go anywhere at any-time for God. We must go all the way with God. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and keep following Him.

Elijah went to the Jordan, that was exciting for Alicia. Elijah shared many wonderful experiences during that time in the desert, including taking his mantle and striking the waters so they divided

here and there. (2 Kings 2:8) The same miraculous things will happen to us as we faithfully walk with Jesus.

Just like the disciples who went in obedience to Jesus to the upper room. He sent them the Holy Spirit-that was their mantle.

And like Elijah said to Elijah, the Holy Spirit says to each of us individually, “You have come a long way on the journey. Ask me anything you want and I will give it to you.”

If your heart is pure, and you are shunning sin, then you can say with a humble heart, “I want your mantle. I want a double portion what You have.”

When did disciples went to the upper room, they did not skip anything that Jesus asked them to do. They did everything right. They went in a humble way.

No pride or jealousy or bickering.

They went in the spirit of unity and most of all they earnestly sought the blessings of God through their prayer and praise!

Suddenly they received the mantle.

Elisha picked up the mantle from Elijah, and he struck the waters and they parted; the prophets of Elijah’s day saw this and they said he’s got the power, look at him he’s got it. I am sure the Jews who were attracted by the noise of the upper room saw the disciples and said look at them they have the power. They went all the way they didn’t look back.

Men we need to go all the way for Jesus we need to have the fire of God so deeply in our hearts that we cannot help it – we must exalt Jesus in the Holy Spirit with every fiber of our beings. I remember as a young lad that God raised up people in the church with the gift of exalting God the father. Today we need to get back that gift of the Spirit to exalt Jesus!

God hungers to hear the earnest cry of our hearts once again. We need to find men and women who hunger for God as a young man cries out in every fiber of his being for the touch from his new lover.

We need to be willing to climb any mountain, walk any course, hurdle any obstacle, to touch the very pinnacle of heaven with our praise.

This is what God desires, and that is what will please God. If we desire earnestly to seek and crave it, he will give his Holy Spirit and his power to us.

The Holy Spirit told me that if we would begin to exalt Jesus, if we would begin to desire a touch from God so deep in our hearts that we would do anything to receive it, then he would honor our hearts and pour out his spirit on the fellowship, unlike any time we have ever seen in spiritual history.

The Roman Centurion's Cry

Let us shift for a moment from the scene in the upper room to an outside courtyard where we find one of the Roman centurions.

“Sir come here I want to talk to you,” I said.

“Yes, Sir,” he replies “showing the respect of the military men are taught to offer to anyone who addresses them.

“Aren’t you the one who drove the nails into Jesús’s hands?” I ask.

“Yes, I was the one, and I’m frightened.” he replies, looking from side to side as he talks as though he is expecting someone to jump up and stab him with a sword.

“Why are you afraid?” I ask.

“I’ve crucified many men. I’m an expert. That’s my profession,” he began speaking very rapidly. “But this man was different from all other men I’ve crucified. When we put him on the wooden cross, we didn’t have to fight with him. He just laid there, willingly, his hands were not clenched; he opened his hands willingly. I didn’t have to force him to open his hands, he opened his hands willingly, so I could drive the nails into his wrist. It was as though he wanted to die, as though he wanted to give his life.”

The Roman centurion paused, looked hurriedly around for potential assassins, and then began again.

“I know how to make a man feel pain. That’s my job. To hurt you. To hurt you bad. I know I hurt him so bad that his body shook and quivered. But you know what? He didn’t say a single word. He didn’t curse me or spit in my face like the others do. This man didn’t do that. I’m frightened because...”

Here, the Roman soldier lowered his voice as though he did not want others to hear the words he was about to speak. “He claimed to be the son of God. He said we would kill him, but that He would rise again and come out of the grave.” The soldier was now visibly sweating from the furrowed brow and his hands shook as though an electric shock were shooting through his fingers. After he let out a big sigh as though he was experiencing some relief in admitting to the monstrous crime he now realized he had perpetrated.

He began again “I’m the one who killed him. And now look, he came back out of the grave. I crucified him and I’m frightened. I’m scared. Every time I take a step, I’m afraid the earth’s going to open up and I’m going to fall into a pit and get killed right there.”

Then he looks at me with a glint of hope in his eye. “Is it true that this man is the son of God?” he asked. He said he would be killed and then he would come out alive again. Where is he now?”

“Yes, he is God, and he is getting ready to go back to heaven and his heavenly father,” I reply.

Then I shared the gospel with him quoting verses John 3:16 through 18:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

As we parted, I prayed the Holy Spirit would show him clearly that Jesus was God, and move upon that guard and save his tormented soul from the fire of eternal damnation.

Destined from the Beginning

At one point in the gospel of John, Jesus says

“Father, I will that they also whom you have given me be with me where I am;

That they may behold my glory, which you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

“Oh righteous father, the world has not known you but I have known you and these have known that you have sent me.

“And I have declared unto them your name and will declare it that the love wherewith you have loved me may be in them and I in them. (John 17:24-28)

Now men, look at this closely. Jesus glorified the father so that we could be glorified through his Holy Spirit.

What is the Holy Spirit?

It is the glory of God coming into us.

It is the power of God in our lives.

And for what purpose do we become consumed by the Holy Spirit?

So we can glorify God!

So we can glorify the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Once we get to the place where we are willing to sacrifice all; everything to please Jesus our Lord and Savior, then we have learned the most important purpose of our lives.

The most important thing in my life right now – and it has been for almost 40 years it's to serve God, to obey him to honor him to exalt him that is the most important thing any of us can do.

Men we are now at a place in the fellowship where God is challenging us – God wants to do something for us, but we have got to do something before he acts.

We must repent.

Love him.

Desire the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for it.

Praise him for it.

Be willing to honor God and exalt him with every fiber of our feeble beings, then he will send us a deluge of his spirit. I can see hundreds of thousands of us standing together magnifying the Lord.

Exalting the Lord

Then he will pour more oil on the fire.

I see it coming.

A time of signs, wonders and miracles.

I see it coming.

I always felt that before Jesus comes there would be a powerful outpouring of his Holy Spirit like in the beginning of the church. Now, the Holy Spirit has confirmed that truth in my heart through the recent revelation He has given me.

There are some things we have to do to get to that place of experiencing his Holy Spirit in this special time.

We have a good start. We have been working for 40 years so we have a solid foundation.

Now we must prepare for the end-time spiritual outpouring that is coming.

Start with Prayer and Praise

We must begin to prayerfully seek God as we never have before. We must open our hearts even more with greater determination to serve God. We must exalt him in everything that we do with absolutely no concern for ourselves. Then, we must watch and seek the power of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual blessings of God to sweep through our fellowship!

It is so easy in the affluence of America to go after the material things of life- the new car, the bigger business, the faster boat, the more luxurious car.

But these things are so temporal.

The spirit I am talking about is eternal!

The things of the world means so little, and when you die you cannot bring any of them to heaven with you. But, God does give you spiritual talents which you can multiply and those talents will allow you to build a storehouse in heaven.

Use Your God-Given Talents

You know the story of the talents.

One servant had five, one had two, and one had one. When the master came back and talked to the one that had five, he said he had doubled his talents. To this man the master replied,

“Well done, His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” (Matthew 25:21)

The same accolade was abundantly given to the man who was given 2 talents, and returned with two more God loves those who multiply their spiritual talents.

But for the man who was afraid, and hid his talent in the ground, the Lord had a different reaction, he was very angry.

When God gives you a gift, he expects you to use it. look at the master's harsh punishment for the slothful servant.

“And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:30)

God did not give you spiritual gifts for you to hide them, to bury them and dig them up only once every two or three years to wipe off the rust.

There is too much work to be done in this world!

Over 1/2 of the world has never heard the name of Jesus even once- let alone had the opportunity to accept him as Lord and savior.

If you choose to be productive for God while on this earth, to be a profitable servant, then the Lord is going to trust you for more responsibility in heaven.

But first you must prove faithful on earth. That is why I believe God gave me the other part of the revelation concerning **airlifts to America**. In the in the United states we have spiritual ghettos in virtually every major city. On the surface our cities are basking in opulence, beautiful buildings, swimming pools, clean roads, fancy cars and marvelous middle class homes but when you get past the material surface, America's a nation that is decaying beyond belief at an unprecedented pace. In just a few decades we've gone from a Christian nation that honored God in our courts, our schools and our laws- to a Pagan nation that will not even allow a Christian song to be sung at Christmas in a public place! From a nation that banned ***** to a nation that protects it.

From a nation that that kept our Airways pure to a nation that insists it is the right of every movie producer and radio announcer

to graphically show and describe the worst actions of man upon other men in violence and sex.

From a nation that considered life sacred to a nation that now kills almost 2,000,000 defenseless babies each year under the right of free choice.

Imagine the pain in God's heart.

He is crying out for America to return to him, to begin to exalt him again with pure and holy voices and surrendered hearts.

One of our unique ministries, and one of the special reasons God raised up this fellowship is our airlift. We must function in the ministry God has given us. I believe that is why God put it in my heart (and I Pray the Holy Spirit is putting it on your heart as you read this book) that airlifts must explode in America-as we have never seen before.

It is time for men to cross this once- great land to recognize through spiritual eyes that America is dying spiritually, and only a Holy Spirit revival, fueled by exaltation and praise to the Holy King of kings, can save us.

Get Moving

Men, it is time to get to work!

My desire is that when I get to heaven, the Lord puts me to work at an even greater pace than he has used me here on earth! I love to work and to serve the Lord, in my time here is not get up I have the energy to keep going, and I pray every day that God will use me to help bring the Holy Spirit fire back to our fellowship, and to help bring a Holy Spirit revival back to America.

Remember the promise of the master to his faithful servants. If we are faithful servants now to our master, God will increase our responsibility and opportunities to serve him when we get to heaven.

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21)

Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice
unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of
the nobles.

(Isaiah 13:2)

CHAPTER FIVE

GOD RELISHES PRAISE!

God dwells in the praises of his people, and in the deepest parts
of their hearts.

This world is so big yet there is not a place where he is not.
He is right in the room with you now as you're reading this book.
There's not one square inch of the earth or the universe where he
is not.

When I am out driving my car, he is there.

When I'm flying to a convention anywhere in the world, he is
there.

When men go up in space, he is there all the time.

Every single place.

Even when I ran my dairy business, when I walked amongst
my cattle, he was there with me. I remember in the early days of
our family business when I was growing up on the dairy farm. The
minute I would look up in the sky and cry out to God, thinking

and exalting him for all the wonderful things he had given us, the Holy Spirit would come on me like a mantle, and I would feel the power of God wrapped around me. I would get so excited I would start running through the fields, screaming at the top of my voice; blessing his holy name.

Exalting him.

Become like Children

That is like the childlike spirit God wants us to return to- all of us exalting his name with child- like joy in our hearts, shouting at the top of our voices, so he can start moving in us with his holy spirit.

I remember times in the fellowship when 2000 people would take their shoes off in a meeting room under the anointing of God where they were gathered- so sacred and strong was a powerful presence of God. Weeping and praising him as their King and master

Men, God wants us to return now to that innocence of mind in heart, to seek his power to desire- to crave the reality of his presence!

You might say well, brother Demos, that was great for that time but God never does the same thing twice. Let me tell you this God never loses his spirit forever he is right with us and what he did once he wants to do again.

Get Ready

I want to serve notice to you men that God is ready to pour out his spirit.

Are you ready to receive?

Are you willing to receive?

If you are, His word guarantees He will bless you!

“Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

⁹ Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

¹⁰ Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.”

Are you willing to forsake all just to make him #1 if you are willing to put him #1, he will bless you like you have never been blessed before!

“I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

² The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father’s God, and I will exalt Him.” (Exodus 15:1-2)

Start lifting up your voices in FGBMFI chapters everywhere; all around the world begin to glorify God; as you do, he will honor your hearts, he will visit with you in his supernatural power, supercharging and energizing you for the challenging task of reaching lost souls in our end time ministry.

Only Jesus can put Pentecostal fire into your whole being and give you words to speak to people for healing and for favor with men.

You will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. You will say to that mountain move and it will move. We’re going to see all of that again- very soon! Doctor Charles price once prophesied that the day will come when the laymen will go into hospitals and lay hands on the sick and they will recover and empty the hospital beds of all their patients.

When I was in Daniel Freeman hospital after my stroke there was a time when I could not sit up or hold my head. My nurse, Sandra, came to me one day and said Mr. Shakarian, many of the people in the hospital recognize you from television and they are requesting that you come to their rooms and pray for them. Would you be willing to do that?

God told me to begin praying for the sick.

“Sandra I’d be happy to pray for them” I replied, “but I can’t even walk or move my head. How am I going to do it?” Well she replied, “I can put you in a wheelchair and strap you in. Then I can wheel you from room to room” how could I argue? If she was willing to wheel me around then I was willing to pray for the sick even in my weakened condition.

So, Sandra put me into the wheelchair, strapped me in and began to wheel me around that huge hospital. Most of the people I prayed for were far worse off than I was. Some of their bodies were badly burned. One lady had been placed in complete suspension-in traction. When I saw her I cried.

As Sandra wheeled me around the hospital, I considered myself fairly lucky. My heart went out to these patients. God gave me great compassion for their needs. As I prayed for them, my heart wanted to grow ever closer to Jesus. I long for the day that Dr. Price said was coming: When we would pray for the sick and empty out the hospitals.

That day is coming! These people in the hospitals want deliverance from their pain and suffering, and God is going to give it to them in this end-time hour.

Men, we are an end-time ministry that God is going to use to shake the world!

Ohh how I thank God that my time was not wasted when I was in the hospital. I thank God that he gave me the opportunity to minister to others, even in my weekend condition.

I believe that the day is coming when we will walk in a greater power than the early church. Can you imagine what Peter would have done if he were walking through Daniel Freeman hospital? Can you imagine the miraculous healings that would have taken place?

That same power- and greater- is coming again!

Therapy For Me?

Later, in that same hospital, Sandra, my nurse, came into my room and said, Mr. Shakarian I'm here to take you to your first therapy treatment.

"Therapy?" I repeated, "how can I go to therapy? I can't even sit up."

"I'm going to put you in a wheelchair and strap you in like I've been doing when you go to pray for people", she replied.

And that's just what she did. She strapped me into a wheelchair and pushed me into the therapy room. When we arrived there, I saw about 15 people in wheelchairs in a big circle. The scene reminded me of the old tent meetings I attended where all the sick in their wheelchairs would be pushed to the front for healing prayer.

This was probably the most depressing moment of my entire life. When I saw all of these people, and realize how sick they were it finally dawned on me for the first time how sick I was. My memory was gone- I cannot remember one day to the next. I couldn't walk. Parts of my body were paralyzed.

An air of depression permeated that entire room. Finally, in the midst of that deafening silence, one of the patients screamed out, "Somebody do something! Somebody do something!"

Another silence. Then, as it were an answer from heaven a black lady sitting behind me started to sing from her wheelchair. She sang like an Angel; I've never heard such beautiful singing; It was as though the song came directly from the heart of heaven.

“Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others You are calling, do not pass me by,”

“Lord, I want to touch you” I cried out.

Everybody started crying and sobbing. Praise and worship broke out for several minutes in the room.

When the praise and exaltation stopped, I realized I had experienced a miraculous healing touch from God. My memory came back to me, and I suddenly had no fear of dying. I also realized God wanted me to continue to live and work for the Fellowship, and for His Glory.

Today, My body continues to get stronger every day, and God has put a powerful anointing on my life, greater than he gave me before I had my stroke. Before my stroke people I prayed for did not fall under the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, when I pray over people, hundreds fall under the power thanks to the new anointing God had given me.

People are getting healed.

I was in Kansas City and prayed for a woman in a wheelchair who had never walked, and through God’s healing grace, she got out of her wheelchair and started walking! (I understand that she is still walking today)

That’s why I want to exalt him more now than ever!

He is the Christ, the son of God. As we exalt him, he will change our world.

Men, I’m expecting this to happen very soon. God is not through. The church will be stronger now than when it first started. A powerful move of the Holy Spirit is coming!

This is what God wants to do.

God wants a witness. A Holy Pure Righteous witness for his glory!

Sin Must Stop!

The devil has had his way in this world for too long!

There's too much sin,-and sin blocks the will of God in your life!

Too much disobedience to God's will.

There is only one way we're going to get rid of sin and get people right and that is by and through the power of God!

That same way that the disciples did on Pentecost.

From that solitary prayer praise meeting in the upper room, the whole city of Jerusalem was shaken!

3000 repented and came to Jesus in the first outreach-because the power of God moved through the Holy Spirit on that crowd.

God wants his people ready to receive his power once again. There is a spiritual time for everything.

There was a time for Pentecost, and when the clock struck the Holy Spirit came and poured out his power upon the apostles.

I do not know the precise second in the spiritual time we are living in now. But I do know the hour we are living in the final end-time moments of spiritual history, and God wants us to get ready to receive his Holy Spirit's power in a special way!

It is going to happen.

George Warnock, in his book *The Feast of Tabernacles* discusses the feasts in Leviticus 23, and parallels them with the times in the Church through the ages. The feasts mentioned were:

- 1 The Passover
- 2 The Unleavened Bread
- 3 The Feast of First fruits
- 4 The Feast of Pentecost
- 5 The Blowing of the Trumpets
- 6 The Day of Atonement
- 7 The Feast of Tabernacles

Within the body of the church, each of these feasts symbolizes a time of 1000 years (To the Lord a day is as at 1000 years). Of the seven feasts, all have been fulfilled within the body of the church except the feast of tabernacles different which is the end of the week or an age of toil and labor- the day of rest.

There remains therefore a rest (a Sabbath) to the people of God (Hebrews 4:9)

I believe that when we enter the year 2000 we will enter the age of the feast of Tabernacles- the end of the church's week (remember, one day to God is has 1000 years) of strife and turmoil. Soon we will enter the feast of all feasts, the Sabbath of all sabbaths, basking in the ultimate rich heritage that is ours in the word of God.

That is when we will see the peace in the whole world, and the power of God. That is when we will see the promised "latter rain".

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." (James 5:7)

God is anxiously waiting for the hour when he will bestow his latter rain- when the coming of the Lord will manifest into the midst of his people. That time is almost here and if you are not praying for God's mighty hand in your life, you are going to miss the latter reign of glory God will release upon the earth.

Receive The Glory of Jesus

You know, Jesus was the one to talk with Moses in the burning Bush. He was before Abraham.

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)

Two of the means God used to exalt Jesus in the New Testament was the transfiguration and the ascension. The ascension alone has spoken of 33 times in the New Testament.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:9)

Jesus Christ was carried up into heaven while the disciples were watching; He was transported and received out of their sight.

The same Jesus was then seated at the right hand of the Father, and is exalted of all the principalities and powers and dominion both in this world and in that which is to come.

“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” (ACTs 5:31)

Without a shadow of a doubt, Jesus is God, not a mere, ordinary man. He said, “if you’re going to kill Me I’ll raise Myself up.” And He did!

People everywhere honored him. Jesus said, “the Glory that you gave to me, I want to give to these disciples.”

“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

What did He mean by that?

When the fire came at Pentecost, the Glory of God poured out upon his children.

Imagine, the Glory that came down that day from heaven in the form of a rushing mighty wind shook the whole city of Jerusalem.

Thousands upon thousands were affected. 120 disciples spoke the languages of 15 different nations!

God wants to do that and even more today!

It is now the ascended or exalted Christ who today rules we believers and gives us repentance and forgiveness of sins and prepares for us a place in heaven.

Praise God! It is Through the exaltation of Jesus Christ that we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens; we can now hold fast to our confession and draw near to him with boldness through his throne of grace. If we have any hesitation in our approach to God, all we need to do is remember: ascended savior, our great high priest, and the presence of God, interceding on our behalf-over all things!

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

You Can Have This Power Today

To receive this power today, you and I must repent and be humble- just as the fishermen were humble men.

No false pride or sense of self-importance.

Peter walked humbly into a synagogue, saw a man laying from the time he was born, and said simply to him,

“Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee:
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.”

And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up:
and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
(Acts 3:6-7)

Can you imagine this crippled man running up and down the
aisles of the synagogue, praising God and thanking Him for this
miracle?

That is the power God wants you to have in your life today!

When we are called, we must obey- with the humble heart of
a servant.

While I was in the process of writing this book, I received a call
from President George Bush’s office, requesting that I serve as a
liaison to the Christian world on a committee. At first I did not give
an answer (requesting time to pray about the opportunity).

Then I called them back and I told them “I will serve for one
reason. I believe the morale of our nation is very low, and if God
can use me to minister to others and to help raise the morale of our
nation, through the power of God, then I should do it.”

I would like to continue to speak to the church as a layman. In
this new position within the Bush administration, I believe God
will use me to encourage others to get back to the godly principles
that made this nation great, to get to a place where God can pour
out his spirit and we can receive his anointing. When we walk in
this reality then He will answer our prayers.

I will never forget a very special time in 1961 when I was
attending the world Pentecostal conference in Jerusalem with 4000
preachers, when the Holy Spirit allowed me to pray for an old
gentleman Jew- all crippled up like the man in the synagogue. He
could not straighten his back.

While we were gathered outside waiting to go into the meeting,
a lady approached me and said “She explained that she had found

him living in a lean-to outside the city. He had asked her to help him get into the auditorium because he had heard that Jesus was healing people there. When they learned that they had to have a badge to get in, someone suggested they speak to me.”

Of course, my heart went out to the little man. I decided to give him my badge. When I bent down to pin it on to him, I heard an unmistakable voice say to me, “Demos, you are to pray for his healing right now.”

I was taken aback.

Here? Now? With the place full of high-powered Pentecostal leaders from all over the world?

“You, Demos, right here,” the Holy Spirit replied.

So I told the lady I would pray for the man. I bent down to him and asked “What is your need?”

The man was in total pain and could not straighten up. He stood there crooked, looking like the number 7. He had a stick that he was holding on to as a crutch, rocking back and forth in obvious pain.

I leaned over and hugged him. His hair and clothes were a mess and a strong unwashed stench permeated his body. Ignoring his dirty physical appearance and smell, I then said this simple prayer:

“Jesus, right here in the same Judean hills you healed everyone that came to You, You didn’t turn anyone down. And Lord if you were standing here right now, you would heal this brother. You would not let him suffer another moment.

“Now, Jesus, I’m going to pray for him. I can’t heal, but you can heal him. You asked me to be a channel and I’ll be your channel now, Lord.”

Then I said to the Jewish man, “Brother I’m going to pray for you now do you believe Jesus can heal you?”

That’s why I came was his answer

“So I began to pray.”

“Jesus, take every pain Away from this body now, and loosen every joint. In the name of Jesus, I command all the pain to leave the joints so he can stand straight! Thank you Father

“Brother, stand up now,” I said to him

He gave a jerk. I could hear it it was like his whole back was making the sound of cracking knuckles. I heard something snap.

At first I was afraid the fragile little man had broken something. But the groan that came from him was of release, not pain. Slowly he straightened up and gazed triumphantly into my face. From all around us came a loud chorus of praise in a few moments, he was standing eyeball to eyeball with me. No more figure 7. I took the wooden stick he was leaning on and gave it to the lady. When she took it, it was like she received an electric shock.

She started screaming. Four thousand preachers could hear her crying “A miracle. A miracle.” They rushed out to see what was going on.

“What do you mean, a miracle?” they asked.

“Look at this man,” the excited lady replied, waving the stick in the air. “Just a few minutes ago he was crippled and bent over in pain-look at him now.”

She pointed to the Jewish man who had started running around the grounds. He even went to the meeting that night, jumping up and down in the balcony saying, “I’m the one, I’m the one that Jesus healed.”

As I journeyed back to the King David hotel that night, the Jewish man traveled on the same bus I was on. Out of all those buses, he took the same one. He had to be pretty spry to find me. When I got off the bus at the King David hotel, he bowed in front of me again. Thank you Sir thank you”

“No, listen,” I corrected him, “you thank Jesus Christ for your healing period I cannot heal, only Jesus.”

“OK, he replied I understand.”

I hugged him one final time and said “goodbye” that was the last time I’ve ever seen or heard from him.

End-Time Anointing

Men, this is the type of miracle God wants to unleash in each of your lives. But to be ready to receive this end-time anointing, you must first get down on your knees every morning and exalt the God of the universe with every fiber of your being. To praise his Holy Name with your mouth and your heart, and desperately seek everything your God has to give, asking Him to pour out his Holy Spirit on your life.

This is not a game. It is the real thing!

You must praise God with all of your heart, mind and soul, nothing on this earth must be more important. When God is absolutely in #1 priority, and not someone you sandwiched between business appointments and television shows, then he will manifest himself in your life in a way you never imagined possible.

As you lift passionate praises to heaven; as you sing the sweet songs of exaltation, God will move ever closer to your heart. Until finally, in a miraculous movement of the spirit, both you and He will become one.

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

(Hebrews 13:15)

CHAPTER SIX

EXALT JESUS

I believe God wants to do something very special for us in this end time hour.

I have been really praying, it's "God how are we going to get close to you where these things can happen?"

That is when the Holy Spirit said, **"EXALT JESUS!"**

Tell the men to exalt Jesus. I will send the power of the Holy Spirit. He will deal with the men."

Yes, we have a Commission to win people to Christ.

Yes, we have a Commission to give God our tithes and offerings.

But the most important thing a child of God can do is to exalt the Lord!

When you do that, everything else will flow naturally.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

Sometimes the devil tries to get us discouraged, but we cannot listen to his lies.

A few days ago I met one of our fellowship leaders from Indonesia we're told me about an invitation extended to a very rich Moslem friend of his to attend a full gospel luncheon. The Moslem was the head of the the largest corporations in the entire country when he received the invitation, the Moslem replied I'll come but I can't be there more than half an hour. I've got a very big business appointment after that."

The Moslem businessman came to the fellowship meeting and the anointing there was so strong that this Muslim businessman said, "Sir, can I use your phone I have an appointment but I can't leave this room right now."

He called his office and postponed his appointment for 30 minutes.

At the end of 30 minutes he again asked to use the phone, and again postponed his big business appointment. "I can't leave this room" he explained. "Something is happening inside of me I've got to stay here"

At the end of the next 30 minutes he finally called the office and cancelled all his appointments for the rest of the day! Then the man got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

After that meeting the ex-Muslim businessman invited our full gospel representative to come to his huge factory and present the gospel to all his employees. When that happened the power of God came upon these factory workers and many were saved.

That same power that was in that Indonesia meeting was in our own breakfast meetings at Clifton's Cafeteria. Some first timers would initially be frightened by the power of the Holy Spirit but they always seem to come back again seeking the power of God

George Otis, now president of high adventure ministries, received the Holy Spirit one of our meetings. Look what God has done through him. George was a total stranger to the fellowship yet

he became baptized and now God is using him mightily through the Voice of Hope International Radio Network. Just this year it's huge international radio network started beaming the gospel into China and Asia.

The men I have talked about here have at times felt low and discouraged, but they have learned in their lives that when the going is most difficult, that is the time they need to exalt Jesus. When you exalt Jesus, the devil would take off in a flash. When you exalt him, Jesus is pleased so he blesses your sacred worship even more.

When the devil tried to tempt the Lord Jesus he replied it is written thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

He focused on the Lord, he exalted God.

When Jesus came to the home of Mary and Martha, and Martha went around working and preparing food and doing all the things she felt necessary to make Jesus comfortable, she knows Mary was not helping. She said to Jesus, what about my sister, she had just been sitting there at the feet of Jesus- worshipping.”

Jesus said to Martha:

“And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

Jesus knew that worship comes first, even before service! Worship is where everything in our relationship with God begins.

God does not worry about what we do, he cares about who we are in our hearts. He rejoices when we have an attitude of praise for him we must forget about ourselves and exalt Him.

“The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.” (2 Samuel 22:47)

A Universal Message for the Hour

It is my experience that when the Lord births a message for a particular time, he births that message in the hearts of godly men and women all over the world.

A recent testimony update we received here FGBMFI headquarters ministered mightily to me, since it confirmed in my heart that God is giving the same message to others, “EXALT HIM above all else”.

Here’s what I read in that testimony update from Ken Evanhus:

“For the past two years I have not been working as hard on writing applications for insurance as I did in the past. I have received what I consider to be God’s will to not only keep up my business but to go into something else that will help the elderly.

“In 1985 the lumber mills that had been the backbone of our community went out and the town was gradually going down hill. I put a sign on my insurance reader board stating, “God’s people will pray a great industry into Lebanon,”

“Throughout 1990, I kept praying that something would occur to bring life back to my town. Then I felt compelled to fast, and did so for 23 days; from April 22nd to May 15th, 1990.

“I got an offer to move on with the national company which would have meant a great increase in salary, but my prayers and dreams seemed to steer me from that option.

“The burden given me from God was driving me to secure and develop two subdivisions. The purpose of this was that

I'd build complexes and condominiums, sell them at a reasonable price and use the money to build senior complexes and affordable housing for low-income people.

“My instructions from God were that I would not benefit financially from the sale of the original complexes but the money would all go toward the building of the senior and low income housing.

“The first two complexes will be sold in the summer of 1992. This will be seven years from the time I put that sign on the reader board and it is exactly nine months and three days from 2-28-92 from when I first woke up in the middle of the night and knew I had to name this project ‘ALMIGHTY BEING EXALTED Enterprises.’”

“This whole burden is explained in Ecclesiastes 9:10, II:

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...
'and 'the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.”

Oh, how I thank God for the move of His Spirit all around our nation, and all around the world. How I thank God that the Holy Spirit is moving on men and women all over the world to give HIM their first priority – to EXALT HIM above all else.

If you are feeling God's Spirit move on you right now, please join me in your spirit and say this prayer that I have written out:

“Oh Lord, thank You for Your Holy Spirit. We exalt You. Jesus, Your work is so precious. Thank you for men like

Stephen who, though they killed him, was so involved in praising You that I honestly do not think he felt one moment of pain. You let him see part of heaven so he could look up and see You at the right hand of the Father.

“You are exalted all the way to the Father, all the way to the throne. You are sitting on Your heavenly throne right now, hearing and receiving our prayers.

“Lord, help us. Bless us. Open new thoughts in our minds as to what you want. We love You, Jesus. Thank You for the privilege You have given us all these years to work for You. We just love You so much. We cannot thank You enough.

“Give us the burden to do something more for You, Father God. There’s so much more to be done. Give us the burden and Your empowering to accomplish every task You set before us. We want to do everything we can to glorify and exalt Your Name before Jesus comes once again. Amen.”

“Oh LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee,
I will praise thy name;
For thou hast done wonderful things;
Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.”
(Isaiah 25:1)

CHAPTER SEVEN

WORSHIP – THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

Worship and exaltation of God are not options; they are the highest priority in God’s Word.

In Chapter 20 of Exodus, when God reveals the ten commandments, the first priority was to worship the Lord to the exclusion of all other gods.

“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”: (Exodus 20:2-3)

In the New Testament, Jesus said,

“The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment” (Mark 12:29-30).

God places a top priority on worship!

When He gave instructions on how to build a temple for worship in the Old Testament (starting in Leviticus 7), it took several chapters to disclose His desire, and to make sure the worship center was built in a fitting and proper manner.

God was concerned about His people and how they worshipped Him. Worship is a pattern for living in both the New and Old Testaments; to exalt God is our primary responsibility.

A.W. Tozier once wrote, “Man was made to worship God. Worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism. He inhabits the praises of His people.”

“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3). Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve (Matthew 4:10).

Worship even comes before service.

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24),

Beware False Idols

Anything you worship instead of God is an idol; anything between God and you is an idol. The golden calf was an idol, and violated the true concept of worship. In ALL cases, God comes strongly against this practice of giving worship to false gods:

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (Exodus 20:5)

The Psalms were written almost exclusively to exalt God, and it is clear that exalting HIM is a high priority to our heavenly Father.

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Psalm 29:2)

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:

²To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,(Psalm 92:1-2)

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. (150 :6)

Praise is saying, “Thank you, Lord, for saving me from this wretched world.”

Worship is saying, “Thank you Lord, for who you are”.

Worship appeared very early in scripture. The first time we see worship is when Abraham says:

“... Ability here with the assets and I shall I am the light will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. (Genesis 22:5)

Now remember, this was when Abraham was bringing his own son to God and sacrifice – the supreme act of worship the father could do for his God. Abraham was willing to give everything he had – his only son Isaac – to worship God.

Worship Involves Participation

Men we cannot hold back in our own worship. We must recognize that worship and exaltation are not options in our lives – they are a command from the living God – to place him first in the universe, above all else – even in our own families!

Worship is God’s own idea, and the act of worship is always being carefully guided by God. He gave Abraham very specific instructions on how to offer his son. He gave the builders of his temple very specific instructions. God cares about how we worship him.

Worship is an activity we are involved in as a result of God’s command, and it cannot be passive – it must be one in which we actively participate.

Abraham had to actively bring his son to the altar, and raise the knife in the ultimate act of obedience. He participated in the process.

You can sit for 45 minutes in church and listen to a powerful sermon but you are not required to participate in it when you exalt your heavenly father, you must open your mouth and let the words flow out from your heart.

You cannot Worship in a passive manner.

Worship Requires the Best we have to Offer.

Imagine how Abraham must have felt when he received this command from God:

“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. (Genesis 22:2)

God did not ask Abraham for something easy. Worship is not a cheap or casual action.

Worship Costs Something

When David went to build a temple to give worship and honor to God, Araunah offered to give him the materials he would need for the project. But David respectfully declined, saying,

“ And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵ And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel. (2 Samuel 24:24)

David wanted to build a temple for God – but the act of worship had to be something that would cost him something personally!

Worship means to give worth back to God, to reverently bow before him on the ground as an outward sign of reverence and give him the glory that he alone deserves.

And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

¹⁰ The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”.

If you know the Lord, you have to celebrate what God has done.

Praise before Prayer

There is more said about praise in the Bible than about prayer. Only man, as a creature of God, can communicate through pitch and harmony and song.

No animal can sing like the human being.

Christianity is the only religion of the world that is musical.

Heaven is the ultimate homeland of music. I still tingle in my soul when I sing the word in “Amazing Grace” that say:

“When we’ve been there 10,000 years, we’ve no less days to sing

God’s praise than when we first begun.”

Worship is a responsibility of every person in the congregation and is a response from the heart.

In first chronicles 23: 5, 4000 praise the Lord with instruments: Moreover 4000 were porters; And 4000 praise the Lord with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith.”

Praise =Revival

So many times, men come up to me and say, “Brother Demos, when is God going to send revival across America?”

I tell them that revival always comes after praise and worship, and in close association with music-these ingredients are essential to our spiritual life and to revival. Singing and praise are the direct result of being filled with the spirit of God.

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

¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;” (Ephesians 5:18-19)

Singing releases grace into your heart.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)

Even Jesus and His Disciples sang a Hymn together after the last supper.

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:30)

Men, praise, exaltation and worship are God’s first priorities. If the Holy Spirit is going to pour out himself on us in this end time hour, then praise exultation and worship must also be our priorities. The Holy Spirit will pour himself out upon us when our priorities are in order.

“But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.

¹⁷Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.

¹⁷Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

(Psalm 59:16-17)

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE VICTORY OF WORSHIP

Praise and worship are the keys to spiritual warfare.

Worship and warfare go together. In the Old Testament, for the people of Israel there was a direct link between warfare and worship. If their worship was not right their warfare was not right. It was closely integrated

And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him. (Hosea 11:7)

When God's people we're not right in worship (as in the book of Joshua) come on they would go out and be soundly defeated. If we do not have clean hands in hearts as we worship our ability to defeat the enemy is diminished.

Youth defeat evil worshippers

Doctor David Jeremiah, senior pastor of the Scott memorial Baptist Church in El Cajon, California, on his radio program turning point, recently told a story that deeply touched my heart; I feel it worth retelling here. It is about a congregation in Alabama, and how they changed the face of their city forever – by exalting the Lord in 1987 in southeast Alabama there was a rash of teenage suicides that nobody could explain (you may have read about it in your own local newspaper). A Southern Baptist preacher by the name of Rick Higgins knew that there was something satanic in the area that was causing teenage suicides, something beyond the natural tendency of teenagers to drastically blow incidents in their lives out of proportion.

In fact in his own mind Rick associated these teenage suicide with satanic cults, since there was a growing satanic cult in that particular city.

In ministering to young people and from hearing what they were saying about their friends, Rick knew there had to be some connection between what was happening with those suicidal kids, and the rise and the worship of Satan. Some of the kids in his youth group told him about a ring of devil worshippers and a friend of theirs, one of the most popular boys in the high school had told them he was involved in the cult. Although he wanted to get out

of the cult the leaders told them they would not let him escape. So afraid with this young man of what his cult might do to him that he once told his other friends quotes “I’ll let you know if I’m found dead it was a cult members who killed me”

A few weeks later that very boy was found dead in a car with a hose from an exhaust pipe taped to his wrist! They’re investigating officials ruled this boy had died of suicide by asphyxiation but the young people in Rick’s group youth group knew better, they knew something had happened to this boy that he had no control over.

Pastor Rick decided he would mobilize the other Christians into spiritual warfare he went to see some of the Christians police investigators and the small communities where these suicides were occurring, and he discovered from his conversation with them that the satanic cult members were very active, and they were actually drawing names and targeting very various students for suicide. If this the student would not voluntarily commit suicide then the group would kill them and make it look like suicide.

Apparently, there was even a number of adults involved in this cult, an incredible as it might seem even some ministers were reportedly involved!

Rick knew that this was a strong spiritual battle, so every day for a week he went with his youth group to the place where these suicides were taking place most often and they would worship and praise the Lord to cleanse and purify the area.

The challenge was issued

Then, they decided their marching words would be from the story of Elijah in the Old Testament. Rick said he remembered how Elijah stood up on the mountain and confronted the prophets of Baal, and challenged them by declaring “let’s see who the real God is” (1 Kings 18:24)

Elijah Confronted the prophets of Baal. When the devil worshippers of the Old Testament tried to talk to their gods, there was no response.

Only silence.

Elijah mocked them:

“And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.” (1 Kings 18:27)

Just as a Elijah had done Rick decided to confront the evil forces of the community. He went on radio and television announced that on Halloween night, at midnight, and the graveyard, he and his followers would be there, and he invited those who were responsible for all this wickedness to come and join them!

Pastor Rick intended to confront the satanic cults with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Halloween night game, and at midnight Rick and his friends stood in the cemetery ready to confront the satanic cult.

War with praise

Rick said “I’ve always fought the devil with prayer and preaching but as I prayed about how to do this, God seemed to be telling me that preaching would not be the focus that night, but instead we were to praise God and worship him!

“We had a 12 foot cross made and each of us had a bag of tracks that we were going to pass out when the cult people came. We put the cross up and put enough light on it so Satan worshippers could see it, but they need not do anything else but worship and praise Him”

The Christian youth gathered together in the center of that dark cemetery, singing many of the old familiar songs and hymns such as Just as I am, and the Old rugged cross and Amazing Grace.

They exalted God in that cemetery.

Then, the enemy came.

What a spooky night (In a remote part of the cemetery near where the actual confrontation took place, they later discovered that the satanic cult had actually sacrificed and butchered a cow its entrails were taken out and spruce spewed all over the ground!”)

As a satanic crowd began to gather around the singers they began to jeer and taunt them many were dressed in Halloween costumes such as ghosts and bloody vampires.

But these horrific costumes did not disturb the youth group, instead the Christian young people kept praising and worshipping God.

“We didn’t pray warfare type prayers”, said Rick, “we didn’t break curses or talk about strongholds. All we did was praise and worship God. As we did, God’s Spirit seemed to captivate the crowd.”

They stopped Jeering.

They stopped taunting.

The Satan Worshippers sat there as if transfixed for hours as the young group sang praises to the Lord (These youth were not professional musicians – they did not even have a guitar)

Finally at 4:00 AM the satanic group left, having listened to the praise and worship of God for almost 4 hours

There was never a single threat made against the Christian youth group.

And, according to the newspaper reports, from that night on there were no more teenage suicides in that community! The satanic curses prematurely snatching the lives of young teenagers in Alabama ended right there in that graveyard on Halloween night – through the power of worship and praise to God.

Warfare for You're Life

Worship and praise are tools for spiritual warfare

If you are currently under pressure experiencing some difficult times, perhaps facing battles that seem beyond your strength – a broken marriage, problems with your children, hopeless financial problems, satanic lies trying to discourage you – immediately begin to play some worship music in your home – and join in the worship by singing out loud to the Lord!

Worship God and praise him as a pattern in your life, and you will defeat the enemy in every circumstance.

Worship through giving

You cannot worship God without giving something. That is what why our joyful tithes and offerings are so important to God.

Some pastors have told me that they never mentioned money. But they but if they really understood what Old Testament believers did to worship God, they would realize that giving our money is another way to exalt God.

in the book of Leviticus There is a long list of all the offerings. The burnt offering – or voluntary offering for sin a bull without blemish or a male sheep sheep without blemish, or turtle doves and young pigeons. Can you imagine coming to church today with the green offering or an offering mixed with flour and frankincense? Certainly not.

But God expects you to come with ties and offerings, because as David knew you cannot worship God and not ever give anything that costs you nothing. When Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury-mark 12: 41, he noticed a poor widow as she threw in her two mites. when He witnessed this he called to his disciples to note that this woman

had given more than the others because she gave that which cost her something.

“And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

⁴⁴For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”
(Mark 12:43-44)

Worship Starts With the Heart

Jesus Luxure our heart to determine what things we believe are important. He cautions us about making the things of this earth too important:

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

In the Old Testament, no one came to church empty handed. They brought something to say God I love you I want to worship you.

You cannot worship without involvement of self substance and praise.

The book of Hebrews takes Old Testament scriptures and uses them as a backdrop for truth. The only way the apostles could make Christianity understandable was to relate it to the Jews. In chapter

13 of Hebrews we learned of a new altar, and a new way to offer sacrifice to our heavenly father “by him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God, continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name Hebrews 13 :15

In chapter 15 of X, we see Paul and Silas beaten and bruised, at midnight in prison began to sing praises to God.

And at midnight paul and silas prayed, And saying praises unto God and the prisoners heard them acts 20 acts 1625 then look what happened and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken and then immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s bands were loosed acts 1626

This shaking of the foundations of the prison started with their praise. As a result the keeper of the prison was so moved that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and was baptized.

And Paul and Silas were released from prison hyphen all through prayer and praise exclamation mark.

What worship means

The word for worship means that make yourself prostrate before God outward symbol of an inward attitude of gratitude and submission.

Our hands our worship instruments; the lifting up of our hands is also praise. When we do this we were saying Lord here I am

Raise hands are the international sign of surrender. Even in the Iraq war when the men cannot speak English wanted to surrender they knew the universal sign raised hands.

In the last glimpse we have of Christ, he was returning to heaven with his hands lifted up.

And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

⁵¹ And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

⁵³ And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen. (Luke 24:50-53)

Exalting the Lord must be at the center of all that we do.

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

⁴ Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

If you want to see God entirely at home and feeling perfectly comfortable, it is when we praise him

When Jesus met the woman at Samaria she told him in their discussion that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship to this Jesus replied you worship you know not what we know what we worship for salvation is of the Jews but the hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and And in truth: for the father seeks such to worship him John 4 22 through 23 look at the last line of that passage God is looking for people who will worship him! (Psalm 63:3-4)

Begin to Worship God

You can be the answer to God's search.

You can gratify the passion of our God.

I honestly believe there will be no preaching in heaven only praise! Who knows, throughout eternity, we might find our ultimate purpose is to sing over and over the words of this Psalm unto the Lord.

Psalm 150

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary:
praise him in the firmament of his power.

² Praise him for his mighty acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
praise him with the psaltery and harp.

⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord.

The Ultimate Dimension

A few years ago I wrote a little booklet entitled the ultimate dimension this book describes the dimension of spiritual power few men have ever experienced, yet it mentioned I believe will be available to all Christians in these end time days.

Until now many of us have been willing to know something of God have been satisfied to occasionally hear his voice and sincerely believe that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the closest relationship they can enjoy with our god.

But in these end times God is seeking a special people who will not be satisfied with anything less than the ultimate that God himself has to offer that experience will come only one way – the same way as Pentecost started – through deep and sincere exaltation of the almighty God of heaven!

God is looking for men willing to risk all.

Do you want to have more of God in your life?

If you do then you must be willing to sacrifice pray and praise. That is the start of releasing God's special plan for this end time hour.

Begin now to earnestly strive for perfect oneness – with – Jesus through prayer and praise.

Desire his nature to be your nature, his words should be your words, his knowledge should be your knowledge, his love to be your love.

When we enter his gates with praise, we can become one with God. Then the world will stand amazed at the miracles we performed and the mountains we move.

No employees forgot.

Up until now our relationship with Jesus has often been that of an employer or an employee and an employee we both share the same basic environment and general objectives but often do not share the same passion the same heart the same zeal seldom will and employ willingly sacrifice for the sake of the company.

God is not looking for employees – is looking for Co owners of his spirit he wants to inhabit your praises.

For we are members of his body of his flesh and of his bones ephesians 5:30 when we are united together with Jesus through our prayers and praise renate made one with him by God himself ephesians 2 five and six says he has quickened us together with Christ has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Our ultimate dimension is to be one with Jesus so that we can live as he did walk as he walked perform miracles as he did knowing the will of the father and willing to sacrifice all to achieve the divinely ordained end time purpose! And to walk in that dimension starts with prayer and praise. If you want to walk in that dimension you must be willing to seek and do God's will no matter what the cost Jesus so emptied himself that he was willing to experience the

beatings the crown of thorns the scourging at the pillar the death on the cross.

These painful experiences were not his desire but he knew and understood that they were the will of the father for the his hour

Jesus had a pattern for his followers so they too might enjoy the special relationship he had with the father like it or not sacrifices part of that spiritual pattern perhaps the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds in Christ second Corinthians 1/5 follow the pattern of son.

Jesus so emptied himself his own desires his own plans his own needs that his one and only goal was to accomplish the will of God would send him! He lives so closely to the father that he could do nothing that was not in the father's will.

Jesus gave the example. Men began to realize that your life is constantly on the very edge of eternity that came to us, from out of eternity into time so that we might know him, and one day soon go from time into eternity passion and vision – birth through prayer and praise that is the difference between Christians little youth and Christians use mightily praise and prayer bring us into that oneness with Jesus.

I believe that so powerful will be the end time movement of God there will come a day when our walk with God is so close that like Moses our friends will glow our faces will glow with supernatural light.

And when Aaron and all the children were Israel saw Moses, behold the skin of his face shone that's an exodus 34 30.

Begin to intensify your prayer and praise life today so that God will give you the desire the passion the all consuming drive to be one with Jesus. When I believe our then I believe our conventions will become mobilized and miraculous energy as men come together in the same spirit of God sharing the same goals the same zeal the same love and the same unfelt wishes willingness to

sacrifice for his glory we will be one in unity purpose power and passion new new.

Praise God so he will give you that same eternal vision and passion to do God's work that Jesus had to do the will of his father, that the 120 apostles had on that Pentecost Sunday Jesus.

Jesus walked with an intensity that produced a magnitude of miracles never seen before in the face of the earth yet this mighty man and son of God has commissioned us to follow him.

As you sent me into the world Even so have I sent them into the world John 17:18 and then later he declares.

Verily I say unto you he that believes on me the works that I do shall he do also in greater works than these shall he do because I go into my father that's in John 14:12 not only has he sent us it is said we shall do his works and even greater God intends for you and I to function in a power level even greater than Jesus manifested 2000 years ago!

We are his chosen ones.

Now is the time when God will raise up his special group of chosen people who are willing to enter into his holy gates with praise until the reality the spiritual oneness takes place! God is seeking and preparing a special end time people, the people willing and ready to make sacrifices in their personal lives so that they may experience breakthroughs in their spiritual lives new.

Leonard Rayhill in his classic book entitled *Why Revival?* Terry's right we must alter the altar play alter is a special place to die on let those that will not pay this price leave it alone as.

As you complete this book it may be the beginning of your entering into a new dimension of prayer and praise with your heavenly father the time when you are willing to put yourself on the altar and sacrifice your every personal need to his supreme will is it not just fire slogans to try to inspire you this is the sacred message from God the precise revelation he gave me to share with you now during this critical end time moment in spiritual history it is

time to enter into and experience very quarts of heaven someone 54 through 6 says enter into his gates with Thanksgiving and into his courts with praise may you strive to exalt Jim until you enter into a relation of absolute oneness with Jesus praise him with the sound of the trumpet praise him with sultry and heart praise him with the timbrel and dance praise him with stringed instruments and organs praise him upon the loud symbols praise him upon the high sounding symbols let everything that has breath praise the Lord praise ye the Lord.

Me and our modern world has crucified Jesus afraid afresh in the flesh of sins pouring its pollution into the sewer we call humanity no in then Incarnate Christ has once again been placed in the tomb by our own rejection of the total man we have driven nails of modern theological criticism into his hands we're trying the seamless robe of his deity from him by claiming he was just a great prophet and teacher. It is time to make atonement in the holy of holies to once again be cleansed by the blood of the lamb.

The power has departed in the glory of the Lord is gone only through prayer and praise will God once again pour out his Holy Spirit in the mighty and unique way upon us. It is God dwelling in us that will give us his strength and his victory over every enemy in every foe without God we're helpless.

Then it was the pillar of fire by day and the pillar of cloud by night.

Now it is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who has come to lead us from our Egypt to the promised land.

Now the end calling on the word is in human hearts and lives. There is no victory for man without the indwelling presence of the victorious Christ through the manifestation of the holy spirit

Before Jesus returns we will see the fullness of the return of the power of and the cost before Jesus returns we will see a restoration of all the gifts which have been lost by the sinfulness and disobedience of the church living arcs.

Once we had the box called the ark but it was of no use without the glory of the shekinah today we are the living temple of God but we are simply an empty box without the indwelling presence of the word made flesh the God within us on pentecost,

On Pentecost, they heard the rushing of a mighty wind the 120 disciples in the upper room removed and stirred by the presence of the one who alone can hear and answer prayer and praise the revival called Pentecost was in reality a revival of the indwelling presence into the surrendered hearts and lives. The shakina was back above the blood sprinkled mercy seat! The arc was coming up the road.

The cry of hungry men was for the living God. Then the power fell the comforter came waves of glory followed the experienced blissed beyond compare men today I want to tell you the arc is coming up the road again.

The power is coming back and our eyes are yet to see the fullness of the manifestation of his glory the fullness of the Pentecostal powers just ahead the completeness of his outpouring is yet to come the church dispensation began with the upper room and it will finish with an upper room experience what happens then will happen again but even greater.

I believe you want to become one of God's chosen servants in this end time or to experience the fullness of God as to Alfred to those ready to receive the day is coming when the power of the spirit will rest so mightily upon the hearts of spirit filled men they will command blind eyes open they will obey instantly at the word soon we will receive power – God's power, Holy Ghost power, such as we have never known if you.

If you believe there is coming a time when God will shake cities when the winds of revival will roar up the road again when God's pools are gaining glory will pour out on all who are ready to receive it through their prayer and praise then unite with me now

in the spirit let's agree in prayer that you experience the reality of Pentecost in your life today.

Heavenly father we thank you for sending your son Jesus Christ to earth to walk with us. We thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to live within us. And now Lord we thank you for allowing us to become one with you, to walk in your power to operate in your wisdom and to perform your miracles so that we may be mighty in time witnesses for your glory Lord a.

Lord accept our praises. We exalt you in everything we do we ask now in a very specific way that you empower us with the desire to seek you above all else, so that we are willing to sacrifice your your glory, and so that we might serve in this end time generation. Lord we love you, praise you, exalt you, and give you all the glory for everything you will do through each of our lives. Amen.

