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Under the leadership of Dr. Paino, CALVARY TEMPLE has become one of America's outstanding churches. Since 1950 when Dr. Paino, and his wife Mary, answered the call of God and moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, the church has grown dramatically from a small group of 26 Believers, to a dynamic charismatic body, numbering in the thousands.

Under his direction, Calvary Temple has planted 41 satellite churches. In 1969, Dr. Paino founded Christian Training Center, a two-year junior college. He also heads up the year-round Bible Conference Grounds, a 210-acre resort. Thousands are ministered to and refreshed in their spirits on these grounds every year.

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Our Father's PROMISES



...to Us!

By Dr. Paul E. Paino

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For several years I have been urged to put into print some of the material that I have taught in our church, to young men preparing for the ministry, in church seminars and conferences across the country, and to the classes of Christian Training Center (a two-year junior college in the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana).

Ministers and associates have continually encouraged me to set aside the necessary time to share some of the truths that have been made so very real to me during these past more than fifty years of ministry.

My two sons, Pastor Paul Craig Paino and co-worker Rev. Phillip Carter Paino have challenged me many, many times to take the necessary time to write the thoughts that have been inspired to my heart concerning the Person, the work, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The past few months, I have felt an urgency to give myself to this endeavor.

My wife, Mary, and I have been privileged to serve the Lord in the ministry of His church as pastors for more than a half century. During these fifty years, we

have watched dramatic changes take place as a result of the Pentecostal outpouring and the Charismatic renewal. We give praise to the Holy Spirit because He has come to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am also thankful for a faithful and dedicated secretary, Connie McDaniel, who has served for the past thirty-two years in my office. She has spent a great deal of time and work making this book a reality.

It is my earnest desire and prayer that the powerful promises shared in the following pages will bring blessing to you, the reader.

INTRODUCTION

There has been one thought in my mind as I have prepared myself to write the words that you will read in this book. I was born in 1923. For these past many years I have seen the marvelous work of God's Holy Spirit in our home, in my life, in the church, across the nation, and around the world.

Since the turn of the century, the outpouring of the Spirit has been the most significant thing that has happened to the "Body of Believers" since the church was born on the day of Pentecost nearly two thousand years ago. The wind of revival has swept across the nations. People by the thousands, from all walks of life and from every cultural background, have been touched by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a result of this background and because of my personal relationship with the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit, I have wanted to share some important revelations with believers concerning the work, ministry, and power of the Holy Spirit. I have made the effort to write this book in an outline form

so that the material could easily be used by those who desire to communicate its truths with others.

I have sensed an unusual anointing of God's Spirit upon me as I have worked to make this material available.

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Chapter One

PROMISE

The Feast of the Passover was approaching. The Scriptures declare:

"Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end."

John 13:1

Jesus and the disciples partook of supper and Jesus proceeded to wash the feet of His disciples. Jesus predicted that He would be betrayed by one of the disciples and announced to Simon Peter that he would deny the Lord three times.

Jesus began speaking words of comfort to His apostles. The Master was concerned about strengthening the faith of His followers!!

FAITH IS PRODUCED BY PROMISE!

So the Lord assures these men by sharing several thrilling, strengthening, and exciting promises. In John, chapter 14, these promises are given by Jesus. The first promise was:

I. THE PROMISE OF A PLACE

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

He continues:

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:2-3

The men could not fully grasp the true significance of the statements that Jesus was sharing. They did not understand that He was leaving. They did not know where He was going. They did not comprehend what lay before them, but Jesus made several things very clear. He said He was going. He said He was going to prepare a place. He promised that He would return. And, He assured these men that He would receive them unto Himself so that they could be

together again. It was Thomas who said, "We know not where Thou goest and how can we know the way?"

The Lord's promises not only produce faith but they provide hope. Jesus has gone to prepare a place for all of His children. We have been assured that our home will be a heavenly home. We reside here only temporarily. The Apostle Peter referred to the Lord's promises as "**PRECIOUS PROMISES**." One day, we all will move to the heavenly place.

II. THE PROMISE THAT HE WOULD RETURN

The promise of the Lord was very clear. He promised them a mansion in His Father's house. He promised that He would come back again. He promised that they would be together. He also assured Thomas and the other disciples that He was "The Way, The Truth, and The Life."

"Jesus saith unto him, I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

There are signs all about us that indicate the coming of the Lord is near. The nation of Israel is established. A federation of kingdoms is rapidly coming together. A spirit of revival is sweeping around the world. The "fields" are ready for the last "harvest."
JESUS IS SOON TO RETURN!!!

III. THE PROMISE OF GREATER WORKS

Jesus continues His discourse by further promising that those who would believe will not only do the works that He had done but will also do greater works because He was going unto the Father.

"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

Here is a wonderful promise! It is made clear that the Lord has work for those who believe in Him. Jesus came to do the will of the Father. There was work for Him to accomplish! He labored in ministry. He labored in prayer. He labored in teaching and instruction. He labored in His obedience to the Father and He finished the work that was given Him to do. Now, He tells the disciples that, since He is going to the Father, He is assigning work to all who would be His disciples.

All will agree that "the greater works" refers to the fact that Jesus went to the Father so that many could be filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to fulfill God's purposes on this earth. He prayed the Father to send the Holy Spirit to believers. This would make the power of the Holy Spirit available in the lives of multitudes. He was one Vehicle! He was one Channel! He was one Instrument! But, because He was going to the Father, He promised that there

would be many laborers, many witnesses, many who would accomplish the works of God. Here was a command to do the will and the work of God, and here was a promise that provision would be made so "greater works" could be done than Jesus could do alone on this earth.

Also, there are those who understand that "the greater works" not only includes a multiplying of work because of the increase of workers; but, that greater things would be accomplished as God's power was manifested through believers. The gospel would go farther, and touch more people, and change the destiny of nations. The gospel would confront and withstand principalities and powers, would affect the lives of countless peoples, and would spread to the four corners of the world. Jesus made a promise of greater works. The Holy Spirit continues to be faithful in His work and ministry through earthen vessels.

"Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and ye shall be witnesses."

Acts 1:8

The Lord intends that all of us be a part of "THE GREATER WORKS." We were apprehended by the Lord to be used by the Lord.

IV. THE PROMISE AND PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER

A promise of a new dimension in prayer was given to believers. He introduced a true Power of Attorney.

"A Power of Attorney is an instrument authorizing another to act as one's agent or attorney."

Black's Law Dictionary

"A Power of Attorney is an instrument which sets out authority to one person to act in place of another as attorney-in-fact."

West Indiana Law Encyclopedia

"The Grantor of the Power of Attorney will authorize his Attorney-in-Fact to act on the Grantor's behalf in those matters authorized in the written document which created the relationship. The authorization can be very general or very specific. The powers granted are strictly construed, and the Attorney-in-Fact is not to exceed or to deviate from the authorization which was granted. He must proceed only as authorized. As a general rule, the Attorney-in-Fact can be held liable to the Grantor for losses and damages which are caused by the attorney's acts which exceed his authorized authority.

"By selecting a designated Attorney-in-Fact, the Grantor has evidenced his trust and confidence in the individual who is to act on his behalf. In turn, the Attorney-in-Fact must demonstrate good faith, loyalty and trust to the Grantor. The relationship between the Grantor and the Attorney-in-Fact is tantamount to a fiduciary relationship, which is comparable to a trust relationship. In his actions, the Attorney-in-Fact should always act for the benefit of his Principal, and he should not indulge in self-dealings which could be adverse to the interests of the Grantor.

"The Grantor may terminate the relationship. He may also proceed against the Attorney-in-Fact and recover any losses sustained by the improper actions of the Attorney-in-Fact. These remedies could include an action for an accounting, an action for repayment of money, an action for damages, etc. There are also equitable remedies such as declaring a constructive trust, seeking an injunction, etc."

James R. Grossman, J.D.

The Lord used a unique experience in my life several years ago to give me a deeper understanding concerning praying "in the Name of the Lord." There was an elderly lady in our church by the name of Betty. Betty was eighty-six years old. She lived alone. She was very bright, intelligent, and capable of taking care of herself.

My wife, Mary, and I would stop in to visit Betty on a regular basis to see if she needed any assistance or help. Betty had no living relatives and no one to care for her needs.

One day I received a call from Betty. She requested that Mary and I come to visit her. When we arrived at her apartment, she stated that she knew that she was losing her strength. She was no longer able to go to the store. She shook so much that she was unable to write checks and she did not have a way to go to the bank to take care of her business. She shared with us that she had called her attorney and that he would soon meet with us in her home.

When the attorney arrived, Betty asked if she could give me "Power of Attorney." The lawyer explained that her checking and savings accounts and

lockbox would be made available to me. He prepared the necessary legal documents and took me to the bank and instructed me concerning how I should handle Betty's account.

Betty had several thousand dollars in the bank and there was sufficient finances so that any need she had could be provided. I was given the authority to use her name. I could write checks, withdraw money, have access to her lockbox and her savings account. I was given the legal ability to draw from that account at will. The ability was granted to me to write a check for an automobile. I could have bought myself a suit of clothes...even a new home. This was the authority I had by writing checks "in the name of Betty."

This liberty, power, and authority, however, carried with it serious responsibility. I was instructed that when Betty died, I would have to give an account for every dollar that was spent. I could draw out (as I pleased) in her name but, when accounting day came, I would be in serious trouble if I had used her assets for my benefit. I could draw on her account in her name for HER benefit, NOT FOR MINE.

After Betty's death, I was summoned into the court and had to give an account of every dollar that had been drawn out of Betty's account in her name.

While I was in the court, the Holy Spirit spoke to me. Jesus has given to us "Power of Attorney." We can use His name. We can draw on His wealth. He has plenty of provision. It is important that we realize that this authority, this power, and these resources are made available to us for His glory. We must spend for His benefit. We must use this power for His work. Too many have been drawing from this account for

personal and selfish benefit. There will be a day of accounting soon!

The promise was this: We have the authority and the privilege to ask the Father in the Name of Jesus for our requests. He said:

**"If you shall ask anything in my Name,
I will do it."**

John 14:13

This promise gave great authority to all believers! This legal authority to ask the Father for requests and petitions in prayer must be carefully balanced with the understanding that what we ask is for the Lord's benefit and His glory and not for ours. This new authority is not a blank check on which we can draw anything at any time for our own benefit. This legal authority permits us to have access to all of the resources of God's power and provision so that the work and purpose of Christ can be accomplished through us.

This is a powerful privilege to be able to use the Lord's Name. It gives us access to Heaven's resources and to unfathomable power. Whatever we ask "IN HIS NAME," He will do it. We are yet to plumb the depths of this privilege and promise. To understand such a promise is to totally affect our prayer life and our confidence.

The Apostle John declared,

**"And this is the confidence that we
have in him, that, if we ask anything ac-
cording to his will, he hears us; And if we
know that he hears us, whatever we ask,**

we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

I John 5:14-15

The promise is qualified by the phrase, "according to His will." James gives further clarification:

"Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:2-3

This promise and privilege of prayer **IN THE NAME OF JESUS** must be praying that:

- (a) is according to the will of God;
- (b) is for the fulfillment, purpose, and plan of God; and,
- (c) is not for our own selfish or lustful appetites.

This promise of prayer was to afford us the means to fulfill the will of God.

V. THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER COMFORTER

Jesus continues His words of promise! The Master confides to the brethren that He will send "another Comforter." The disciples had walked with Jesus. They had eaten with Him. They had the joy of touching Him, of hearing Him speak, of watching Him perform miracles, of living with Him, working with

Him, and standing by His side as He ministered day after day. Jesus is preparing to leave and He proclaims to these anxious believers that He is going to send another Comforter to abide with them and, even more importantly, to dwell in them. His words were:

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

John 14:18

This time God would come as a Comforter and as the "Spirit of Truth." The Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, was to be sent by the Father. He was to come as a Teacher. He was to be their Guide and their Leader; and He was to make real the things that Jesus had shared with them in His ministry.

Jesus knew that we would need a Source of comfort. The Holy Spirit is present in our hour of sorrow. He ministers faithfully to those who are discouraged, depressed, and distraught. He is present in times of sickness and sadness. His presence is always real in lonely hours and we sense His arms about us when we are disappointed, offended, and hurt. The Holy Spirit is a blessed and beautiful Comforter.

A Christian does not serve the Lord long until he realizes how beautiful the comforting power of the Holy Spirit is. We are born unto trouble. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that testing, trials, tribulation, and trouble are appointed unto God's people. We have not been excluded from dark valleys, raging storms, dashing winds, and adverse circumstances.

After serving the Lord in one city for nearly forty years with God's blessing continually resting upon

us, God permitted us to walk through a deep and dark valley. It all started when our youngest son was involved in a horrible accident. He was serving as Associate Pastor and was on his way to the conference grounds when he was crushed beneath a 40-ton semi-trailer truck. After being incarcerated for an hour and forty minutes in the mangled wreckage of his vehicle, he was finally extricated. When I rushed to the hospital, I was greeted with the news that my son was paralyzed.

Phillip Carter was a handsome, six foot one inch, capable preacher. He was married and the father of three beautiful children. God had blessed him with a unique sense of humor and a tremendous talent to communicate. He was loved, and everyone enjoyed his presence. Now, he faced death. If he were to live, he would be unable to walk. He was unable to control his body functions. Week after week, he lay prostrate in a hospital bed. It was a dark time. Questions came! The battle with fear, resentment, and anger raged like a fire. Into this dark situation, the Holy Spirit came as the Comforter.

It was during this hour that the Holy Spirit would quicken the promises of God, as I would read in my devotion time. Such promises as is found in Romans 8:28 became a reality. The logos (written word) became rhema to me.

Over and over again, the Holy Spirit would bring an indescribable peace. The presence of God would be made very real. There was a sense that we were not alone. This would be accompanied by a spirit of and freedom in praise and worship.

The relationship with Jesus Christ became sweeter in the dark hour.

An opportunity arose for the church to purchase a television station. It seemed to be the vehicle that God would use to help us touch the tri-state area around Fort Wayne with the gospel. God had spoken to me thirty-five years ago that He would use our church to be a witness to this entire community for His glory. I was sure that this was the open door.

The church rallied behind the challenge. Hours and hours of fasting and prayer were offered to the Lord. People sacrificed. A staff was built, and thousands and thousands of dollars were invested. In the midst of this great effort (an effort that I was sure was the Lord's will), reverses started. Opposing forces were released against the television station. Christian people opposed it. Every effort conceivable was made to keep the television station from being the effective "tool" that we believed God wanted it to be. People had left their jobs to work on staff. The church borrowed money to build what we thought would be **"THE WITNESS."**

Then, calamity struck!

Almost without warning, we saw nothing but disappointment, disillusionment, and despair. The television station was thrown into bankruptcy. Our credibility was gone. The frustration and the pain was indescribable.

In the confusion of the hour, people that we loved and considered close friends began to leave the church. They would always say, "Pastor, I love you but...." When we needed friends to stand with us, many forsook us. In the dark hour, when we reached

for someone to hold our hand and to put an arm around us, we felt alone. Darkness settled over us. For the first time in my ministry, I considered laying the armor down. I had never experienced such total rejection, such absolute despair. It was a dark and deep valley. It did not appear that we would survive.

But, the Holy Spirit was faithful over and over again! He made His presence very real. Out of darkness came a still, small voice. There was an awareness that we were not alone. God had permitted the test, the trial, and the fire; but, thank God He was in the fire with us. He never did leave us! He never failed us! **HE IS THE COMFORTING SPIRIT!**

I don't care what your dark trial may be. It makes no difference how heavy your burden. You may experience moments of despair and loneliness but the Holy Spirit is the Comforter. He is present! He has come to abide in us. His strength and His peace and the awareness that He "has us by the hand" comfort and strengthen us, as we follow the Lord. **Jesus sent THE COMFORTER so we would not be alone.**

VI. THE PROMISE OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

Jesus was preparing His disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Feast day of Pentecost. They did not understand what He spoke, but they were soon to comprehend the power of these promises. They knew that Jesus had been with them but now they were told that the Holy Spirit would live in them.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

I Corinthians 6:19-20

They were to learn that their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit. They were soon to hear the words ringing in their hearts:

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

Luke 24:49

The disciples found themselves huddled in an upper room for fear of the Jews. They saw the resurrected Christ and heard Him speak words of peace and comfort. They had a phenomenal experience when Jesus breathed on them:

"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

John 20:22

They gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem to wait for "THE PROMISE." They were with one accord in one place when the room was filled with the Holy Spirit and they were changed as a result of the fulfillment of this glorious promise.

It is almost impossible to comprehend. God has condescended to live in our human and physical bodies. The Apostle Paul said, "What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?" We do not need to seek His presence. He is our Guide, a Witness to our spirit, and our **CONSTANT PRAYER PARTNER**. No wonder Jesus would say, "I will never leave you and will never forsake you."

VII. THE PROMISE OF PEACE

In the midst of their confusion, in the time of their despair, in spite of disappointment and lack of understanding, Jesus promised that He would give them a peace that would be different than anything they had ever experienced. He said to them,

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

He made them a promise that there would be comfort for their troubled hearts. He made them the promise that He would be with them and would never leave them. He would send the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of Christ" to indwell them. Jesus is the Source of peace.

He spoke peace during the storm on the sea of Galilee; and the first words that He uttered to the

disciples after His resurrection, when they met together in their despair, were

"Peace be unto you; as my Father has sent me, even so send I you."

John 20:21

Jesus knew that His disciples would accomplish nothing if they were paralyzed by fear. Fear has torment. Fear is a cruel master. Fear destroys. Fear strips away all confidence, faith, and makes it impossible to fulfill God's plan. Jesus promised peace. **Jesus is the Source of our peace.** His peace He has given to us.

We read concerning these disciples (along with the believers who had seen Jesus ascend into Heaven) ... they were assembled together. They remembered that they had been commanded to go to Jerusalem and wait for **THE PROMISE**.

*"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that **they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard from me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**"*

Acts 1:4-5

The Lord's promises produced faith! The Lord's words brought life. The disciples remembered that **faith DEMANDS obedience**. When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were in the Upper Room

... "the Promise of the Father" was fulfilled, and the Holy Spirit came as Jesus said He would. He gave us great promises concerning our future. He gave us great authority and privilege in prayer when He told us to pray "in His Name." He sent the Comforter to lead us into Truth and to direct our steps on a daily basis. He has provided a peace for us that we cannot get from the world. Jesus is not only the **promise MAKER** but He is the **promise GIVER**.

Since we have received the Holy Spirit, we can be assured of a prevailing peace in spite of circumstances or environment. Jesus has provided a peace for all of us who are ever abiding in Him. The Apostle Paul found peace while in prison. John experienced peace in his lonely hours. The Holy Spirit gave peace to the early church in their days of struggle and difficulty. All of us live in a world where there is much turmoil, struggle, and difficulty, but the Lord's peace is provided. **THIS IS HIS PROMISE!**

Chapter 2

PURPOSE

PROMISES PRODUCE FAITH! Jesus built the faith of His disciples by sharing many "precious promises" with them.

"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever."

John 14:16

This promise was wonderfully fulfilled on the first day of Pentecost when the disciples waited in Jerusalem for "THE PROMISE." As Jesus continues sharing with His disciples, He carefully explains what the **PURPOSE** of the Holy Spirit would be. In John, chapter 15, Jesus turns the subject to the important matter of producing fruit.

"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."

John 15:1-2

In the verses that follow, Jesus talks about "fruit," "more fruit," and "much fruit."

As we abide in Christ, we become "fruit" producers. The Scriptures give instructions concerning the various ways that Christians are to be fruitful.

I. SOULS WON TO CHRIST ARE FRUIT

In Romans 1:13-17, we read,

"Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles."

"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: As it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Paul was interested in going to the city of Rome so that he "might have some fruit among them." Paul was consumed with a sense of responsibility. He declared, "I am debtor," so he was driven with a deep desire to bear "fruit" by preaching the gospel to those who had not heard.

He said in verse 13,

"I am debtor, both to the Greeks and Gentiles."

In verse 15, he said,

"I am ready to preach the gospel."

And, in verse 16, he said,

"I am not ashamed of the gospel."

As Paul followed the Lord, he bore "fruit" for the glory of the Lord. His "fruit" was to testify, witness, and preach the gospel so believers would know Jesus Christ. This was being a "fruit" producer.

All of us believers must understand that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit for specific purposes in our lives. One way we can bear fruit is to be a faithful witness. We are to let our lives count in school, in home, in the market place, and among both friends and acquaintances that Jesus is the Saviour. We have a debt...a

responsibility. Just as the Apostle Paul was ready and was not ashamed we, too, must faithfully bear fruit. The "harvest" is all about us. There are needy people and lost souls whom we can touch. The Holy Spirit wants us to bear fruit!

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:22-25:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, 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."

This "fruit of the Spirit" must be cultivated. Christian character is produced by the Holy Spirit. The purpose for the Holy Spirit coming was to produce fruit in the life of the believer.

The "fruit of the Spirit" is in direct contrast to the works of the flesh. Fruit is the result of being filled with the Spirit. The "works of the flesh" result in corruption and death. Those who abide in Christ will bear fruit. Jesus promised that He would purge the branch so that "more fruit" and "much fruit" can result. Those who abide in Him shall be fruit bearers.

The Holy Spirit will faithfully minister to us in order to develop Christian character in our lives. Sometimes He leads us through difficulties and val-

leys and into circumstances that we cannot understand. The Holy Spirit is faithfully and wonderfully developing the "fruit of the Spirit" in our lives. He wants us to be conformed to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

This is a lifetime process!!

We move from experience to experience and from one pressure to another so the things that need to be revealed in our life that are unlike Christ can come to the surface. The Lord is very pleased when He sees this kind of fruit manifest in and through us. The Holy Spirit continues His ministry so that "more fruit" and "much fruit" will be produced.

III. GROWING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST MAKES US FRUITFUL

The path from faith to love involves growing, maturing, purging, and developing. In II Peter 1:5-10, we read:

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and

cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fail."

Peter shows us that there is a progression in our Christian walk; and as we take the necessary steps, we will be fruitful.

There is a necessity for Christians to add virtue to faith. Virtue is:

- (a) General moral excellence
- (b) Right action and thinking
- (c) Goodness or morality

The dictionary states that virtue is "specific excellence, good quality, and moral strength"; so, we are to add to our faith, virtue.

To virtue we are to add knowledge. Knowledge is the act, fact, or state of knowing. Knowledge is acquaintance with facts. It is learning, enlightenment, and the body of facts. It is information. The Christian must add to faith, moral strength; and to moral strength he must add knowledge, truth, facts, and understanding.

To knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, patience; and to patience, Godliness; and to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

The Apostle Peter states:

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

II Peter 1:8

The Holy Spirit has been given so that fruit can be in evidence in our lives. The Lord does not want us to be unfruitful.

IV. THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

As a believer abides in Christ, the problem and power of sin is dealt a death blow. God sent Jesus Christ so that those of us who were servants of sin and were without righteousness might be made holy and unashamed before God.

The Lord does not want us to be slaves to unrighteousness. Paul writes:

"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness."

"What fruit had he then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death."

Romans 6:20-21

The Spirit of Christ produces the fruit of holiness in our lives. The power of Christ sets us free from the curse of sin and death. The believer's position in Christ Jesus delivers him from the master of sin and

produces "fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

We are to yield the members of our body unto God. The Spirit of Christ has made us alive and He has come to indwell us so He can be in charge of all that we say and do. As we yield our members as instruments of righteousness unto God, the fruit unto holiness will be evident.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23

Those who yield to Christ will not serve sin. Jesus will purge and work until the fruit of righteousness brings glory to the Lord.

The Apostle Peter challenges us believers "to be holy, for God is holy." Our Christian relationship is not a static experience. We are to grow into maturity. The work of God produces perfection (maturity). Jesus must be Lord in all of our life. The Holy Spirit will faithfully minister to us in convicting and convincing power. We were chosen by the Lord to be vessels of honor. The "fruit of holiness" must be present in all of us.

V. THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS

The offering of praise is "THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS."

"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

Much fruit can be presented to the Lord as we offer to God "the sacrifice of praise." As a Christian uses his lips and voice to give thanks to God, it produces fruit which is well pleasing to the Lord.

Praise and thanksgiving ascend before the Lord as an incense offering. The Psalmist David said over and over again such things as, "I SHALL PRAISE HIM."

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God; for I SHALL YET PRAISE HIM for the help of his countenance."

Psalm 42:5

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I SHALL YET PRAISE HIM, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

Psalm 42:11

"I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE forever and ever."

Psalm 45:17

"Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, MY LIPS SHALL PRAISE THEE."

Psalm 63:3

"LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THEE, O God; let all the people praise thee."

Psalm 67:3 and 5

"But I will hope continually, and WILL YET PRAISE THEE MORE AND MORE."

Psalm 71:14

We are to:

"Put on the garment of praise."

Isaiah 61:3

Praise is fruit. It is the "fruit of our lips." As we abide in Christ, we will bear much fruit.

VI. THE FRUIT OF GOOD WORKS

The Christian who faithfully works for the Lord is presenting fruit to the Lord.

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

"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 1:9-10

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossian Christians was that they

"might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work."

The Apostle James instructs us that a Christian's life is full of WISDOM, PEACE, MERCY, AND GOOD FRUITS. The Lord is looking for laborers. We are "workers together with God."

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

"And the FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS is sown in peace of them that make peace."

James 3:17-18

When our work is done from a pure heart, we are promised reward.

"If a man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD."

I Corinthians 3:14

But, if a man's work does not stand up to the scrutiny of the Lord's judgment, his work will be burned in the fire. Good works are fruit. When we abide in Christ, we produce fruit. He purges us so we will produce more fruit, and He prunes our lives and cuts away those things that hinder and harm so that we can bear much fruit.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit's coming was to make all believers bearers of good fruit.

Our eternal position is being determined by our works. We are saved by faith, and by faith alone; however, we are rewarded according to our faithfulness and our labor. Everyone has been given a gift or gifts. Each of us have responsibilities and a commission from the Lord to faithfully labor in the "harvest" and in the Body of Christ. The works of many have no eternal value.

The Apostle Paul warns that the works of some believers will be nothing but ashes at the judgment seat of Christ. We have been given our work to do. Jesus is looking for laborers. We are instructed to pray that the Lord of the "harvest" would thrust forth laborers. Our WORK is fruit!! The Lord wants more fruit and much fruit from all of us.

VII. FRUIT THAT ABOUNDS TO YOUR ACCOUNT

Christians who support faithful servants of the Lord will have fruit that abounds to their account.

The Apostle Paul wrote to faithful fellow Christians in Philippi:

"Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving, and receiving, but ye only.

"For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire FRUIT THAT MAY ABOUND TO YOUR ACCOUNT."

Philippians 4:15-17

Paul was sent to Macedonia as a result of a special vision that God gave to him in the night. Paul responded to the appeal of the Macedonian man and went into Macedonia to preach the gospel. Now, the Apostle Paul writes to this group of believers and expresses his thanks because they have sent offerings to support him in his ministry. As a result of their support, Paul assures them that fruit has been assigned to their account.

Today, when Christians make it possible for missionaries and ministers to preach and share the gospel, they are producing "fruit that will abound to their account." Giving to the servant of God in the Name of Christ makes us participants in the ministry and causes us to bear much fruit.

We are workers together with God.

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

II Corinthians 6:1

When we support the man of God, the prophet, or the minister, we become partakers in the ministry and fruit abounds to our credit.

There are offerings that are to be designated to the local church and there are offerings that are to be given to the person who faithfully labors in the ministry. This makes us **"WORKERS TOGETHER."** We can be partners with those who are ministering in ways that we are unable to do. We can reap rewards by faithfully supporting those who work in the ministry. The Word of God instructs us carefully that, if someone ministers to us spiritual blessing, we are to reciprocate with material gifts.

Over the years, the Lord has spoken to individuals in my church to designate specific offerings to my ministry. The church has always been good to support me with an adequate salary. However, these faithful and committed people who have felt that they wanted to be a personal partner with me in the ministry have regularly designated gifts to me.

Because of people like this, I have been able to minister to needs that were very personal and intimate. I have been able to accomplish things in helping minister friends who were in dark and deep trouble. I have been able to go and minister in churches that could not afford to pay me to come. Over and over again, money has been provided so that the things the Lord wanted me to do could be accomplished. People who have done these things

have sown into my ministry and, therefore, will share in the rewards. The Apostle Paul said,

"...this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope."

"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

I Corinthians 9:10-11

He also wrote to the church at Philippi and told them that because they gave to him, "fruit would abound to their account."

I am reminded of one man who, many years ago, told me that God instructed him to designate his tithe to me as his pastor and overseer. For more than thirty years, he has been faithful to do so. I poured money into our campground. For years I have supported our fellowship and have stood with men who felt the call of God into the ministry.

I have entertained hundreds and hundreds of preachers who have come to Fort Wayne and have been able to show hospitality because of such a man. Only Heaven will reveal the result and the reward. This faithful man will receive eternal rewards because of his giving.

Jesus made the **promise** concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit and as He continues His message to the disciples, He informs them that the purpose of this new relationship is that all believers might produce fruit. He wants us to bear fruit by abiding in

Him. He will carefully prune and work in the life of the believer so that more fruit can be forthcoming. As we continue in the walk of love, much fruit results. Bearing fruit requires abiding, pruning, continuing in love, and keeping the Lord's commandments.

Jesus encouraged the disciples by saying, **"FRUIT BEARERS ARE FILLED WITH JOY."**

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

John 15:11

Fruit producers are complete, satisfied, and fulfilled people. This is the purpose of the Holy Spirit's coming. **JESUS IS LOOKING FOR FRUIT.**

The words of Jesus as recorded in the 15th chapter of John declare the desire that Jesus has for all of us. The Holy Spirit has been sent that the disciples of the Lord might bear fruit. There is a process that each believer must experience in order to go from "fruit" to "more fruit" to "much fruit." Pruning is often a painful process.

We will not bear any fruit unless we "abide" in Christ. The Holy Spirit is interested in relationships. The Lord insists that His followers produce fruit. If not, the consequences are drastic. The branch is cut away from the vine and thrown into the fire. Bearing fruit is not an option. It is a requirement.

"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 relationship of "abiding" and the process of pruning is necessary for a Christian to develop Christlike character. The fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control are not gifts. They are produced through the process. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to faithfully work with us, in us, and through us that our lives will conform to the likeness of Jesus Christ.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren."

Romans 8:28-29

Chapter 3

POWER

Jesus said:

"Ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

Acts 1:8

This glorious **promise** was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost nearly two thousand years ago. Since the Holy Spirit has come, He has faithfully ministered in the lives of every believer. The Holy Spirit has come to make us witnesses to the Person of Jesus Christ and to the POWER of the gospel. We are to represent Jesus in our world!

As Jesus ministered to the disciples, He made wonderful promises to them. He explained the PURPOSE for sending the Holy Spirit, and He assured

them that they would be empowered "from on high." The Lord's message to those disciples and to us is a threefold message:

- (a) The **PROMISE** of the Holy Spirit ... **John 14.**
- (b) The **PURPOSE** of the Holy Spirit ... **John 15.**
- (c) The **POWER** of the Holy Spirit ... **John 16.**

We read the following words of John's gospel:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

"Of sin, because they believe not on me;

"Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

"Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

John 16:7-11

and discover:

- (1) what the Holy Spirit will do in RELATIONSHIP TO SIN,

- (2) what the Holy Spirit will do in the RESTORATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
- (3) what the Holy Spirit will do to help believers to RESIST TEMPTATION,
- (4) the work of the Holy Spirit in REGARD TO TRUTH,
- (5) the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit in teaching believers the RIGHT WAY TO PRAY,
- (6) the Holy Spirit's work in REVEALING THE WILL OF GOD.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER IN RELATIONSHIP TO SIN

It is the Holy Spirit who draws men to Christ. It is He that brings men and women to the awareness of and need of a Saviour. Unless the Spirit of God draws a person to Christ, no one will ever come to the Lord as Saviour. The Holy Spirit has great **POWER** to:

- (a) convict and convince of sin;
- (b) guide and direct into truth;
- (c) glorify Jesus Christ;
- (d) teach us God's will when we pray, and
- (e) deal with our consciences.

The Holy Spirit is "THE ARRESTING OFFICER." It is He who makes us aware of our sinfulness and

draws us to our Saviour. As believers bear witness to Christ and proclaim the gospel, the Holy Spirit does a work of conviction and convincing of sin. Confession and repentance is the result of the convicting POWER of the Holy Spirit.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER TO RESTORE RIGHTEOUSNESS

All have sinned and come short of God's glory. We have no righteousness of our own. Our righteousness is self-produced and is full of filth and ungodliness. Jesus wants us to have His righteousness. He is the righteousness of God.

The Holy Spirit has been sent so that we can have Christ dwell in our hearts. The Apostle Paul states:

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."
Romans 3:21-26

Righteousness is provided by Jesus Christ in the redemptive plan, and the Scriptures state further...

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Romans 8:10

When we have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us, we have the "SPIRIT OF LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." We receive the witness of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ, our righteousness, has come to live in our hearts. His righteousness is imparted to us. We know we are clean. We know we are redeemed. God's people are delivered from the curse of sin. The Holy Spirit has come to make this a reality in all of our lives.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER TO RESIST TRIBULATION

Jesus instructs that every believer shall have tribulation.

"Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is not come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

John 16:32-33

We have been provided POWER to overcome tribulation. The Holy Spirit is present with us to make us overcomers. When Jesus Christ wrote His messages to the churches in the BOOK OF THE REVELATION, He repeats the need for Christians living overcoming lives.

"to him that overcometh."

Revelation 2:7

"he that overcometh."

Revelation 2:11

"to them that overcometh."

Revelation 2:17

"and he that overcometh."

Revelation 2:26

"he that overcometh."

Revelation 3:5

"him that overcometh."

Revelation 3:12

Then, He states:

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne."

Revelation 3:21

We must overcome the spirit of lukewarmness and lethargy among God's people. We must overcome and resist the temptation that constantly confronts the Christian in his walk. Christians are in a battlefield from several sources.

The enemy attempts to establish strongholds in our minds. The flesh and the Spirit continually war against one another. The struggle against carnality is a never-ending conflict. Christians are assailed by principalities and powers in the spirit world; and satanic forces are constantly at work to trap, ensnare, deceive, and strip the believer of his Christian walk and victorious life.

Our Lord sent the Holy Spirit to give us POWER to overcome. He is the Spirit of Holiness and Righteousness. He makes it possible for Christians to be victorious. A Spirit-filled believer has joy and peace, a desire to walk closely with the Lord, and to live in obedience and victory.

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE "SPIRIT OF TRUTH"

He will not speak of Himself! He has come to glorify Christ. He is the source of understanding and revelation. It is He who provides light. The written Word (Logos) becomes "The Living Word" (Rhema) when the Holy Spirit is doing His work in our life.

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

"But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

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

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

I Corinthians 2:9-13

The natural man cannot understand the things of God. They are spiritually discerned. We who have received the Spirit of God can know the things that are given to us of God. What is foolishness to the natural man is glorious and beautiful to the person

who has spiritual things revealed to him by the Spirit of God.

The Apostle Paul states:

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

I Corinthians 2:16

The mysteries of God are revealed to believers by the Spirit of truth and righteousness. There are no less than twenty-two mysteries revealed in the Word of God to the person who has been given the Spirit of revelation, understanding and truth. He has the power to make God's Word live and pulsate in our life. The Word of God produces faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

V. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN TEACHING BELIEVERS THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY

We now can pray in "THE NAME OF JESUS." The Holy Spirit reveals the will of God to the children of God so that our prayers can be effective.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Romans 8:26-27

The Holy Spirit has power to reveal the will of God to us so that we know how to pray. Sometimes there is a groaning and travailling in prayer. We are unable to express adequately in our human language the cry of the inner man. There is a groaning which is the result of the Holy Spirit stirring deeply in the life of a believer. The Apostle Paul calls such an experience "unutterable groanings."

The precious Holy Spirit makes it possible for the believer to pray with his understanding and with his spirit.

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful."

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

I Corinthians 14:14-15

There is a "spirit language" that is available to every baptized believer. This "spirit language" affords us the privilege of offering praise and worship to the Lord in a deeper dimension than we can ever experience in our native language. This "prayer lan-

guage" also permits the inner person to pray the mind of God into any and every circumstance.

When we do not know how to express prayer requests, we can focus our mind on the need and release our human spirit to pray in an "unknown tongue" and, thereby, pray the perfect will of God concerning the request. This adds a depth and a dimension to our prayer life that can only be produced by the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, **HIS POWER is given to make us witnesses.** The Holy Spirit will lead and direct us where we can be used and effective for the building up of God's kingdom. He makes witnesses of those who will put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

HIS PRESENCE is light and life...Romans 8 refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of life in verse 2, the Spirit in verses 4-5, the Spirit of God in verses 9 and 14, the Spirit of Christ in verse 9, and as a praying Spirit in verse 26.

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:2

"That the righteousness of the law might be filled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:4

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

Romans 8:5

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Romans 8:9

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

Romans 8:14

"...but the Spirit HIMSELF maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Romans 8:26

The believer that is filled with the Holy Spirit will be used of God to touch the lives of people wherever the believer goes.

We have been given a mandate!!

The Lord's commission was for us to go into our world and preach the gospel. He has provided us the POWER to do so. We must have that "endowment of POWER" in our lives today.

The 14th chapter of the gospel according to John is filled with many "PRECIOUS PROMISES." Jesus gave us the PROMISE of a heavenly place. He comforted the disciples with the PROMISE that He would soon return! He PROMISED that believers would do greater works because He had gone to the Father. He PROMISED that there would be a new privilege and power in prayer. He PROMISED that there would be a Comforter who would dwell with them and never leave them. He PROMISED that the Holy Spirit

would use our bodies as a temple. He PROMISED to give us peace in the midst of our confusion. He PROMISED His peace would be left with us and nothing could rob us of it. These all are wonderful and "PRECIOUS PROMISES."

"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

These "PRECIOUS PROMISES" give us hope!
These "PRECIOUS PROMISES" provide us peace!
These "PRECIOUS PROMISES" produce faith!

PRAYER

"Dear Lord, fill me with your Spirit today. Use me as an instrument of righteousness. Empower me to be a witness and give me the strength to walk in your will day by day."