WORLD CHANGERS FOR JESUS

BY

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Dedicated to John and Michele Parker and Leoni Hew

CHAPTER ONE

WORLD CHANGERS

JOHN 1:35-42

"And Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus.  Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon son of Jonah.  You shall be called Cephas/Peter, which is translated rock."

When Peter first met Jesus, his name was Simon, which meant listener or he who heard. He was a fisherman hungry to hear God’s voice. In his desperation to know the God of Abraham, he was open to meet a man whom his brother, Andrew, believed to be the Messiah.

Simon had no awareness of who he would become in the years ahead. He was a religious man who thought he would live and die a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. He never dreamed he would travel the Roman Empire as a world changer for Jesus.

Yet, Jesus knew Simon's potential, thus He gave him a new name, Peter, the rock.  In that exchange of names, Simon heard, perhaps not clearly at the time, but the seed was planted, that his life would never be the same.

God often speaks to us as Jesus spoke to Peter, but sometimes it takes us awhile to hear and then to understand and grasp what He is saying.

The Word of God tells us Who God is and what His heart’s desire is for us. In the Old Testament He made clear to David he would be an eternal world changer as God gave him an everlasting covenant of being a king and ruler of the nations.

In the New Testament, Jesus not only tells Peter he will become a world changer, but He speaks to all of us who follow Him, that we are kings and priests, who will change the world forever as we make disciples of all nations.

Down through human history men and women have sought to shape the world for their own glory and selfish gain. Jesus asks us to deny ourselves and change the world for His glory. He will be the One to do this colossus work through us by the Holy Spirit. He asked that we hear His voice and obey.

A MAN WITH LITTLE TALENT

When I study the life of Peter, he is a man of little talent.  Oh, he had many worldly talents and virtues.  He was a successful fisherman, which boasts of many gifts.  He was hard working.  He was faithful to God in his lifestyle. As we learn in Acts, he always sought to obey the Law of Moses.  He was strong willed, loyal and devoted to Jesus, although we find it had its limits as it does for most men.

Put enough stress and pressure on a man and he can be broken.  He can act in a way he will be ashamed.  That is the human condition.  We have weaknesses that can bring us down.  Peter's came the night of Jesus' arrest when he denied him three times.  This happened the same night he said he would die for Him.

The Good News is Jesus chose Peter, because He would bring out the virtues, character, vision, and discipline...the talents he would need to become a world changer.  As the fisherman, Simon had few talents to do what Jesus needed from him, but as Peter he would be the rock that would help change the world.  Why?

Peter had the one thing necessary.  He had Jesus or I should say, Jesus had hold of him.  That is the Good News for all of us.  In reality we are all Simons, but with Jesus in charge of our lives, we can become Peter.  Jesus can raise us up, train us, and empower us to impact the world for Him.  That is the beauty of being His disciple.

Paul was absolutely right when he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “We can do all things through Christ Jesus Who strengthens us.”  In Christ, we can become the world changers of human history.  Like small streams that flow together to form a mighty river; we can bring life to whomever we touch.

My missionary buddy, Delbert Groves, once took me to the source of the mighty Zambezi River.  It is out in the wilderness, unknown to the world.  Bubbling softly out of the ground, it is tiny, almost unrecognizable as the powerful, life giving river of South Central Africa.

It is not even a pool of water, but it oozes up quietly.  You walk on the grass and you feel it beneath your feet like a squishy sponge.  In time this gentle water joins many streams to become a giant among the rivers of the world, impacting millions of lives with fresh water, food, and nourishment.  It is the source of life in Zambia, Angola, and Zimbabwe. Nations drink from its waters.

All of us as followers of Christ reflect the Zambezi River.  His living water bubbles up in us as the Holy Spirit.  "If anyone thirsts, let Him come to Me and drink.  He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."  But Jesus spoke this concerning the Holy Spirit." John 7:37-39.

He was quoting Isaiah 12, a hymn of praise to God.  In this exaltation of love and hope, Isaiah wrote, “…Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He has become my salvation.  Therefore, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Is. 12:2,3.

Jesus is our salvation.  From Him we draw the water that quenches our thirst and soothes our soul.  Jesus is our strength.  He refreshes us and gives us a new vision for living that replaces the never satisfying lusts that seek to control our lives.

When Jesus becomes the source of our life, then we can produce much fruit, an abundance of fruit and life that multiplies from our lives to others.  Thus, we change the world in which we live.  The scope of our influence reflects the Zambezi as it starts tiny, but eventually it brings life to millions.

I have sat many times with tears of wonder in my eyes, then falling down my checks, reflecting how I am a man of few talents for the needs of Jesus.  Thankful beyond words that Jesus took this broken life and used it for His glory.  I have nothing to offer Him.  Yet, in His grace, He uses me to touch others with His love and salvation.  Hope arises in the midst of misery and thirst.  Jesus satisfies souls that had no hope, beaten down by sin and the world that robs people of life.

Peter became a world changer because of Jesus.  You too can become a world changer for Jesus.  He will do it in you.  Let Him love you, teach you and guide you.  You were created in the image of God.  Jesus will restore that image and in that you will change the world.

THE CALL OF THE MASTER

How can He?  Simon had encountered the greatest teacher, prophet, and king...the Savior of the world, God in human flesh.  Wherever Jesus went and people met Him, He changed their lives forever.  From Jesus, Simon would become Peter, the original world changer for Jesus.

The challenge for Peter, like all of us, God has planted in us a desire to impact the world.  The problem is, we want to make a name for ourselves.  We want to change the world for me, instead of for Jesus.  Simon had to hear the call of Jesus then learn that his destiny was to impact the world for Jesus, not himself.

Each of us needs to hear that call from the Master and learn that our new mission in life is centered in Jesus, for Jesus to use our lives to change the world for Him.  That is a constant battle of the spirit against the flesh in us.

Peter's life with Jesus teaches us what Jesus did in his life to make him a godly world changer as opposed to shaping the world in his image for his benefit.  Jesus had to reveal to Peter his flaws and struggles in order to transform him into a faithful servant of the King.

As in each of us, Peter had little awareness of the strongholds that enslaved his thinking, words, and actions.  He had to show him his sinfulness, his impulsiveness, his fears, his false ideas of God and the Messiah and His kingdom.  He had to teach him what divine love is and what it means to serve and live in the kingdom of God.

Lastly, He had to prepare him for the power he would be given when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.  This dominion over the demons, sicknesses, and sinfulness of men came with unlimited authority in and for God's kingdom.  Peter's heart had to be cleansed and purified.  His mind had to become like the mind of Christ.  All of this would enable him to be used of God with the power of the Holy Spirit in him.

Then Peter would become the world changer for Jesus, that Jesus knew was in Simon, but he had no awareness of what that meant.  Jesus came with revelation knowledge to open his eyes that Simon might see the mighty man of God, Peter, that lived within him, but could only be resurrected by the power of God coming into his life.

This is God's plan for each one of us.  He wants to train us and transform us into world changers for Jesus.  He will lead us to love Jesus with all of our heart.  He will begin to reveal to us what needs to change in our heart and mind, to become like Jesus in our values, our character, our virtues, in our desires, and in our vision for living for Him.

You are named…, but I will call you…, and you will become a world changer for Jesus if you let Me.  Follow Me for three years and you will never look back at your old life.  You will become one who impacts the world for God, not man.  I will fulfill your destiny and use your life for My glory.  If you will sit at My feet and learn from Me, I will empower you to change the world and prepare it for My rule for all eternity.

Now that is an offer I cannot refuse.  Jesus gives it to you today and every day.  Will you yield to Him and place your life in His Hands, so He can change your name and make you a world changer for Him and His Father?  This is the moment, right now, to knee in His Presence and surrender all to Him.  He is your destiny, your love, and your life. Let His glory fill your life so His light will shine through you and those sitting in darkness will see the truth of Who Jesus is and what He came to do for them.

CHAPTER TWO

THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATNESS

Matthew 4:19. “Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

"He has great potential."  I have heard that said about many athletes in my day.  The same could be said for musicians, artists, scientists, actors, chefs, businessmen...you name the area of expertise and it is filled with people full of potential.

What is being said is, "that one" has the potential for greatness, to excel beyond what others can do.  If her talents can be channeled and disciplined, she could be a star.

Of course, when we think of greatness, only a handful ever achieve it on the world stage or on a national level.  They have talents, discipline, training, coaching, creativity, and the drive to achieve near perfection.  We are talking about the Einsteins, the Tiger Woods, a Bach, Michelangelo, Edison, Churchill, Bill Gates...greatness only we mere mortals can dream of.

When Jesus looked at Simon, a fisherman, from an obscure village called Capernaum, in northern Israel, on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw greatness in him.  Jesus said to him, if you will follow me, I will develop the greatness in you.  What did Simon, soon to be Peter, have that we do not have?  Nothing.

In God's kingdom all can be great as opposed to the world where few ever become great.  You and I can be called great in the kingdom of God.  Greatness is for all who will follow Jesus and let him bring out the greatness in us. We know in our heart, we all desire to be great, to excel, to make our name known.  God has planted that greatness in us.

The problem is sin has corrupted our DNA for greatness.  We achieve for our own selfishness, our own pride, our own fame and our own glory.  It burns in us and drives us to be great.  The strongholds of this vanity in our minds must be torn down and replaced with the truth of God if we are ever to become great in the eyes of God.

For greatness in the kingdom of God is not determined by talent or drive or creativeness or success.  Greatness is living as God created us to live in the image of God, as His faithful, loving servants, obeying His truth to glorify His Name.  Greatness is loving and serving others in humility and joy in knowing it pleases our Father in heaven.

It is not about making a name for ourselves, but making God's name great.  It is living with the character, heart, and mind of Christ.  It is walking out the Sermon on the Mount.  It is fulfilling the vision and mission of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus gives Simon a new name, He is telling him, you will no longer be a fisherman, but a fisher of men in My kingdom.  I will make a great man out of you.  You will be My faithful servant and be My leader.  You will become the first world changer for Me and My kingdom.

I will use your life to impact and change the world.  I will teach you and show you how to touch the world for Me and bring life and hope to countless numbers of people.  You will love as I loved.  You will heal as I have healed.  You will teach as I taught.  You will be holy as I am holy.  You will honor and please our Father as I have known Him and done His will.  You will live with power and authority.  As I have cast out demons and begun to restore the kingdom of God, you will exercise that same authority and dominion.

You will suffer for My sake and rejoice in it.  You will be persecuted and rejected.  The world will mock you and eventually kill you because of Me.  In all of that you will know Me and My Father in heaven.  You will be great in My kingdom.

Jesus says to each of us who will follow Him in love, devotion, and loyalty, I will give you a new name.  In that name you will know the greatness God created you to know and live.  You will become whom God created you to be, separate and apart from the world of sin and darkness.  You will know the truth and it will set you free.  You will become the light and salt of the world, bringing hope and life to many.  I will bring out the greatness in you.

The new name symbolizes the new life Jesus gives to each of His disciples and the potential to become mighty in His kingdom.  Over time you will learn from Jesus by the Person of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God what it means and what it takes to become great.  The Holy Spirit will empower you, transform you, and renew you in holiness and righteousness.

FROM SHEPHERD TO KING

He was the runt of the litter, the youngest of eight boys. He was mocked by his brothers and was not held in high esteem. He wandered the hillsides of Bethlehem looking after his father’s sheep. In his time alone with the sheep, he talked with God. He became intimate with the Creator of the universe.

When God sent the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king over Israel to replace the rebellious Saul, he went to the house of Jesse. Samuel was looking for a mighty man that had impressive features and credential. Upon seeing Eliab, the oldest son of Jesse, he said, “Surely, the Lord’s anointed is before me.”

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

So, after examining the first seven sons of Jesse, Samuel realized “the Lord had not chosen any of these.”

And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.”

Samuel commanded David to be brought before him. “He was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”

God had looked into David’s soul and saw a young lad after His own heart. This began the journey of a poor shepherd boy to king of Israel. He would lead his nation into greatness.

It was no easy path. He would be tested, persecuted almost to death, become a raider, feign madness, and finally come to the throne after years in the wilderness. Yet, he never lost his love for God as The Master crafted him into one of the most historic figures the world has ever known.

God took him as Jesus took Peter and made him into a world changer. In David would be the Seed of the Messiah. From David, the ultimate world changer would walk the earth, die for our sins, rise from the dead, and will soon return to rule over all the nations of the earth.

If God can do that in a shepherd boy, He can do it in all of us. For we are all created in God’s image. God has to cut us and polish us into the diamonds we were made to be. We are not lumps of coal with little value. We are priceless diamonds ready to be unearthed to shine for the glory of God.

The potential for greatness is in each of us, as it was in David and Peter. May we hear the Master’s voice say to us:

This is My destiny for you.  I will give you the nations of the earth.  For you will be meek and teachable, humble and bold, loving and true, inspired to love Me and do the will My will.  You will hear My voice and follow Me.  I will crucify your flesh and raise you up in power, so you will see with My eyes and do even more than I did while I walked the earth.  This is for you, if you will follow Me and love Me with all of your heart.  I will teach you to become great in the eyes of God.

GOD SEES MORE POTENTIAL IN YOU THAN YOU SEE IN YOURSELF

When Jesus tells Simon He will call him Peter, He is saying to him, I see so much more potential in your life than you can ever imagine.  I will bring it out of you and develop you into a world changer.

Jesus says the same to everyone of His followers.  We have to believe in Jesus and what He promises us as He did with Peter.

This means: I will follow Jesus, love Him, obey Him, be baptized in the Holy Spirit, meditate, study, and learn His Word. I will be a doer of the Word, hear His voice, discern His dreams and vision for my life.  I will be led, filled, empowered, and anointed by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was in Luke 4.  It is a life of faith completely yielded to God for His glory.

Jesus was Peter's teacher for three years.  In that time Peter was transformed into a world impact player.  I compare this relationship to a coach with his player.  The job of the coach is to bring out a player's potential through training, discipline, instruction, and leadership.  When the coach does his job right and the player does his part, the result is a player who performs at the best of his abilities.

Jesus turned the coaching job over to the Holy Spirit.  He now leads and guides and instructs us in how to become a great man or woman of God.  We truly become great in God's eyes if we follow the Holy Spirit as He leads us to live.  This becomes a lifestyle of Christ like behavior that will impact the world for Jesus.

We can all think of great men and woman who became world changers for Jesus.  I think of Dwight Moody, salesman, who became a world class evangelist or Billy Graham, the wannabe baseball player, who came to preach to more people across the world than any person who ever lived; and  Mother Teresa, the poor Eastern European girl, who impacted the world with her humble work in India...

These are famous people even in the world's eyes.  What I want to show you is that all of Jesus' followers are called to greatness and to be world changers for Jesus.  You will never hear of them, but they are laboring for Jesus all around the globe. They are the sources of the Zambesi, deep wells of water bubbling up to the surface, joining as one into a mighty river of life in Jesus Christ.  Let me share with you some of their stories throughout this book.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

He was born in poverty.  He had little education and barely spoke English.  As he grew up, he learned a skill as an electrician. He married and started a family.  He loved Jesus and hungered for more of how to serve Him and live for Him. He had great potential for God to use him to change the world in which he lived.

One night, as a young man, he attended one of our Holy Spirit Encounters at New Life Center, just outside of Kitwe, Zambia.  The first night prior to the Encounter, we held a prayer meeting at the conference center, which is a block building, with a cross and flame painted on the floor in the center of the building.

As we prayed, the Presence of God filled that building, and we began to see visions and prophesy.  One vision was of a spiritual atomic explosion that rose up from the cross and flame, mushroomed out over the structure, then spread beyond the building.  God was sending a spiritual explosion that would begin in New Life Center and spread across Central Africa all the way up to Jerusalem in time to meet Jesus when He returns.

We began to see this happen at this Holy Spirit Encounter.  That first night, Shadrig, a man who loved Jesus, but was seeking more of God in his life, was baptized in the Holy Spirit.  He was filled with the fullness of God.  This encounter transformed him with a deeper sense of God's love, a greater desire to serve God, and an empowerment that is truly supernatural.

Shadrig, became Philip, the evangelist.  He began to tell others of the love and hope of salvation in Jesus Christ.  Soon he was traveling with teams to do crusades, plant churches, and raise up other evangelists to spread the Good News.

He gave up his full time electrician job to come serve at New Life Center as their electrician and to be an evangelist.  This was a big sacrifice for him and his family as he could have made far more money working as a full time electrician.  But Shadrig knew God had called him to be a world changer for Jesus.

His heart was now full of passion to tell others of Jesus.   When he spoke the anointing of God covered his life and empowered his words.  People began to get healed, saved from their sins to follow Jesus, and be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

He would travel from village to village in the most remote areas of Zambia.  Churches would be planted.  New communities of love for Jesus and for one another sprang up.  Other evangelists began to be raised up under his ministry.  The fire of revival continued to spread.  The atomic explosion of God was happening.

Over a few years, he helped take five churches to 125 churches under the leadership of New Life Center and the United Methodist Church.  Yet, this was not limited to one denomination.  It spread throughout Zambia and the churches who yielded completely to Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The fire of salvation has now gone into the tribal areas of northern Zambia and into the Congo.  The Lunda tribe, of over a million people, under one of its many chiefs, Chief Kanyama, is now penetrating into the other chiefdoms.

Families are being impacted with spiritual life, but also with physical healing and material success.  The level of poverty is eroding and people are being set free from oppression and fear.  They are getting educated and building new lives for themselves as God desires that we prosper in all areas of our lives.

Shadrig preaches with great authority and power, far beyond his education and social class.  He is a world changer for Jesus.  He has no fear of man and desires every man, woman, and child come to the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Jesus has done this in him through the Holy Spirit.  He can do the same in you.  Now, you may not become an evangelist, but God has gifted you and if you submit to Him and be baptized in the Holy Spirit, He will do more with your life than you could ever imagine.  He will bring out the fullness of your potential to be a world changer for Jesus.

BELIEVE.   LOVE JESUS.  FOLLOW HIM IN THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

CHAPTER THREE

EXPOSING OUR SINFULNESS TO RELEASE OUR POTENTIAL

LUKE 5:1-11

"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

There is nothing like a practical demonstration and application after a good lesson from the teacher to drive home the point of the message.

 Jesus taught the multitudes from Simon's boat on the Sea of Galilee.  Simon had been fishing all night.  I doubt even Jesus' words kept him awake.  I can see his head dropping and him trying not to nod off into sleep.  He catches himself and tries to jar himself awake.  I mean the poor guy has toiled all night and has not caught a thing.  Imagine working hard eight to ten hours and not getting paid a penny, then having to sit and listen to a sermon!

When Jesus stops speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."  Pile on the misery why don't you.  Peter is a fisherman.  Jesus is a carpenter/rabbi.  Simon knows there are no fish to catch.  He complains a little about toiling all night and catching nothing, but because it is the word of Jesus he relents and obeys.

They row out into the deep part of the lake.  No easy task after working all night for nothing.  They let out their nets and lo and behold they catch so many fish, their nets are breaking.

So, they signal to their partners to come and help.  They fill both boats with so many fish they are in danger of sinking.  This tough fisherman, Simon/Peter sees what has happened, falls at the feet of Jesus, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Peter is astonished at what he has witnessed at the power and revelation glory of God in Jesus.  He falls on his face before Jesus.  I often wonder how I would have reacted if I had been in Peter's shoes.  First, I probably would not even have launched out my boat into the deep.  If I did go, I would have been so giddy and rejoicing in my prize catch, that I would not have fallen at Jesus' feet.  My focus would have been on me and my fortunate blessing.

But Peter is to become a world changer for Jesus.  He has witnessed the glory of God.  He is convicted of his sinfulness before a holy God.  He is humble and ashamed of his unbelief in the eyes of the Master.  He knows but one thing to do, confess his sinfulness in the Presence of Glory.  He is unworthy in his own eyes.

Jesus does not see Peter in his unworthiness, but acknowledges his repentant heart and declares his destiny.  "Do not be afraid.  From now on you will catch men."  You will become a world changer for Me.  I assure you, I will take care of your sinfulness.  It does not prevent you from being a world changer for Me.

You have a destiny to build My kingdom with the souls of men and women.  You will launch out into the deep of life and catch souls for My Father in heaven.  I will teach you and shape you into a great man for God.

You have learned your first lesson well.  Before I can teach you, you need a meek heart, which in the Greek means a teachable spirit.  For this to develop, you must see your sinfulness and realize your need for Me, Jesus, who came to save His people from their sin.  Once your sin is dealt with, I can begin to bring out your potential, so you become an impact player in My game of life.

In sports, there are flaws in everyone’s game. Bad techniques, poor discipline, lack of drive, a weak will to win, unhealthy habits in eating or lifestyle, lack of confidence, an unwillingness to learn, refusal to make the adjustment to succeed…

A good coach seeks to advise his player on his areas in which he needs to improve. If the player listens and makes the required changes, he will begin to improve. His potential will become reality.

Jesus did this in Peter’s life. He confirmed his good practices, taught him to change his bad habits, and even harshly rebuked him when he failed to change or recognize his need to make the adjustment.

When a coach and player form that special bond of working together, there seems to arise a winning spirit and attitude that is hard to beat. Suddenly a loser becomes a winner. An average player becomes a star. The unclimbable mountain is conquered. This is what Jesus would do in Peter and will do in you.

Peter agrees.  The Bible says he and his fellow fishermen forsook all and followed Jesus!  Together, they would become the first of Jesus' disciples, the initial world changers for the kingdom of God.

THE POWER OF REPENTANCE

One of the most dramatic stories in the Bible is that of David’s sin with Bathsheba. David is at the height of his power as king over Israel. He should be at peace and content with the blessings of God as the study of his prayer in IISamuel expresses. He has with God and man everything a person could want. Yet, he falls into terrible sin. He wallows in the mire of sin for a year. Then God sends his prophet to confront him of his sins. The beauty of the story is David repents and gets right with God.

There are seasons in all of our lives that need the power of repentance. When God confronts us with our sinful wanderings, whether they are as serious as David or not even that major, but we have fallen away from the path of righteousness. We need to awaken from our spiritual slumber. So, God confronts us. The problem is most people do not have a heart like David. They are more like Saul.

When David is confronted he is broken and repentant. He loves God so much he cannot bear to lose the intimacy and love he knows with God. Saul on the other hand has never developed that tender heart with God. He knows God, but his heart is about Saul. He deflects God’s call to repent. He is not drawn back to God by his love, but remains in his sin because of his blind and selfish pride.

David’s love and intimacy with God is restored, but he still suffers the major consequences of his sin. Saul loses everything. He does not return to God and he dies in his sin.

Darryl Strawberry, the famous baseball player, who became addicted to drugs and went to prison, encountered Jesus and was born again. Now he talks to athletes about the danger of sin and how it can rob you of your potential, which it destroyed his life and baseball career.

He says, “You can pick your sins, but you can’t pick your consequences.”

Some of my most precious moments with God have been when I have heard His voice say come back to Jesus. His voice awakens me to my sinful wanderings. His Spirit convicts me of how I have let the things of my flesh and the world seduce me away from my deep intimacy with God. When I awaken to His love, I see so clearly how I have departed from His path and need to humbly repent and come back to Him. It is all about Jesus. For me, no other words can describe that moment of understanding that not everything has been about Jesus, but I see so clearly it has been about me. I simply need to return completely to Jesus. That means my heart has been awakened to the things of God. By His grace I put away the things of the flesh.

The power of repentance is one of the most effective spiritual weapons we have to guard our hearts and for God to release our potential. May we use it to His glory, have hearts that are tender to the call of God, develop an intimacy with God like David, and receive His conviction in order to release the power of repentance in our lives. Come back to Jesus in full surrender. That is the beauty of God’s forgiveness in His covenant with us.

Today, Jesus calls you to follow Him, so He can through the Holy Spirit, make you a disciple, a world changer for Him.  He wants to deal with your sin through godly repentance and humility before Him.  Then on a daily basis He wants you to confess and be cleansed of all sins in your life.  This will keep you intimate and close to Him.  It will keep the Spirit fresh and alive in you, so you can be transformed into a fisher of men.  You will step into your destiny as Peter did, as the man I am about to tell you about did.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

I sat amazed as I listened to Greyson's testimony.  Several pastors and I were sitting in the guest house at New Life Center sharing what God had done in their lives over the past year.  This young pastor began to reveal his heart to us.

He had been coming to our Holy Spirit Encounter for several years, but he did not believe in what we taught on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit.  He scoffed at the power of God in working miracles.  He rejected what we stood for.

Now he was transformed into a world changer.  Two miracles had occurred in his life to convince him that God still did miracles and was doing what we were teaching concerning Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

First, his two year old son had suffered a terrible tragedy.  Playing near a latrine he had fallen into the liquid filth and disappeared beneath the surface.  No chance for survival.  Yet, as prayer was lifted up for him, he was recovered and found to be in perfect health.  Not one side effect or disease came upon him.

Next his wife had a tumor in her breast.  Prayer went up for her healing.  Without any doctor's help or medicine, the cancerous tumor disappeared.  She was completely healed by the power of God.

These events impacted Greyson in a life changing manner. He was almost forced to believe in the power of God to heal and save lives. As this truth pierced the darkness of his understanding, he saw the light. He would now become a mighty world changer for Jesus.

Poor, hardly educated, from the south of Congo, he had been sent into Zambia as a preacher to pastor a new church plant.  You could see the fire of God come alive in this man's life.  He was a servant of Jesus Christ, filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the entire truth of the Gospel.

He became part of the spiritual atomic explosion God had promised to send in Zambia through the New Life Center.  He began to travel with Shadrig and others to preach in crusades, plant churches and raise up evangelists.

The anointing of God became so strong in him that he became the District Superintendent and Chairman of Evangelism for Zambia.  Despite few funds, he helped oversee the spread of more than a hundred churches in Zambia.

When we traveled together and I heard him share his testimony of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, I knew only God could do what had happened in his life.  I would sit with tears streaming down my face as I listened to him preach with great authority and power.  When he prayed for people they were healed.  When he led them to faith, they repented and believed.  When he asked for them to be empowered with the Holy Spirit, world changers were raised up.

No sacrifice was too much for Greyson as he dedicated his life to the salvation of souls.  The Holy Spirit had made him a great man in the eyes of God.  He was living beyond his potential as a human being created in the image of God.

Again, not only were souls saved and destinies redirected from hell to heaven for all eternity, lives improved in marriages and relationships.  Health and provisions for living improved.  Hope abounded where hopelessness and fear had ruled.  He is one of the selfless leaders whose name is no longer Greyson, but Paul, church planter and evangelist for Jesus.

I wish you could see him tell of his now teen age son after he took his exams for school.  He had asked us to pray for him as how he did on his tests would determine how far he could go in his schooling.  Greyson's face beamed when he told me his son aced his tests and was first in his class.

The future is bright because of world changers like Greyson.

CHAPTER FOUR

OUR FAITH MUST BE GREATER THAN OUR FEARS

Matthew 15:22-33

"Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them walking on water."

Why did Jesus come to them walking on water?  That question troubles me.  It stirs my imagination and quickens my prayer life, asking God for the answer.

It certainly was not to perform some trick or to impress His disciples with His powers.  I believe He did it to teach Peter and the disciples a valuable lesson about being a world changer.  Jesus, the Master teacher, was raising up world changers to impact the whole world with His message of salvation. He needed men and women of whose courage did not succumb to fear.

Peter had to learn that his faith had to become greater than his fears.  Just as Jesus taught Simon he had to believe Jesus could transform him in to a world changer, on the reverse, he needed to learn that his sins if not dealt with could keep him from becoming a world changer. His fears unconquered by faith would cause him to fall short of the mission Jesus would give him.

Peter was like all men, full of fears. I have found through my travels that most men are alike, they make many of their decisions because of fear. Peter was no different. If he was to be led by the Spirit in doing the will of God, he would have to grow in faith by keeping his eyes on Jesus to master his fears.

The pressures of the world and the temptations of the flesh and the Devil would be so intense in their mission that no human being could do what Jesus commissioned Peter and the disciples to do. To go against the principalities of darkness and take back the earth that Satan had stolen from Adam, without a faith that could command the legions of Satan to flee, would be futile.

The Devil does not play games with his kingdom. He intends to rule and will destroy anyone who comes against him. He killed the Son of God in the cruelest and most barbaric manner. In the words of Jesus, “If the world hates you, you know it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet, because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore, the world hates you.”

Anyone who represents Jesus becomes an enemy of the Devil. We are marked for persecution. Satan will hold nothing back to torment us and destroy us. That is why we need supernatural faith in Jesus and believe in what He seeks to do, make disciples of all nations.

Without faith in the name of Jesus, we have no chance to be world changers for Jesus. We will face the vilest tests and deceitful guiles of the Devil. To be a world changer is not for the faint of heart. This faith is a gift from God and must be nurtured and developed into a mighty spiritual weapon that can cast mountains into the sea.

We need to learn to put on the full armor of God and to trust Him for our protection, safety, provision, and guidance. Do not think the world will be your friend. If the world acts as your friend you have gotten onto the wrong path.

Get on your face before Jesus, repent and denounce the lust of your flesh and the sins of the world in your life. Jesus is the only way to life and victory. In Him no one or nothing can separate you from the love of God. Accept and receive His unlimited, unconditional, and divine love.

This love as it grows will produce a fruit so sweet that no one or nothing can stop its harvest for the kingdom of God. This fruit of love is trust. It turns kittens into lions and the weak into giant killers. It turns hopeless situations into opportunities of victory that witness to the world there is a God Who loves them. He is so faithful we can trust Him for everything we need.

When one takes her eyes off of Jesus as Peter does in this story, it only leads to death and destruction. His grace and mercy can only save and restore us from our folly.

Often the greatest attacks on our destiny come from within the church body. Religion can be the tool of the master deceiver. Beware of anyone or anything that is not completely centered in Jesus Christ. It is all about Jesus and one’s personal relationship with God.

In this tale, the disciples believe they are seeing a ghost approaching them.  They are fearful.  But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer!  It is I; do not be afraid.”

And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, “Come.”  And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to Jesus.

At this point, Peter's faith is greater than his fear.  His eyes are on Jesus.  He trusts Him and loves Him.  He believes Jesus will enable him to walk on the water.  And he does!

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink cried out, saying, "Lord, save me."

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

How often that night and ones to follow did Peter ponder those words of Jesus?  "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

How many times have I let my fears overcome my faith?  How many times did I have to cry out to Jesus to save me?  How many times has He said to me of little faith, why did you doubt?

I am still learning the power of faith in Jesus over fear.  Fear is one of our greatest threats in life.  It will truly keep one from being a world changer. There are many things in our past that cause us to fear.

Lack of knowing the genuine love of God in Jesus Christ will lead to a lack of faith. This combination of doubt and uncertain love creates the seed of fear that seeks to rule and ruin our lives.

Paul says God does not give us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind.  Fear causes us to forget God's love and His power to keep us walking under the shadow of the Almighty.  Fear certainly robs us of our clear thinking and sound mind.

Fears get embedded into our minds from early childhood.  They become strongholds that keep us from becoming the world changers God created us to be.  Fear destroys our relationships and undermines our trust in God.  When we fear, we cannot hear God's voice and we lose our way.

By growing in love and intimacy with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, we begin to gain revelation knowledge that we can trust God with our lives completely.  We start to experience victory over our fears, because we learn God is all powerful and is faithful to fulfill His promises in this life and the next.

Now when fear comes to enslave me, I rebuke it.  I remind myself of how much God loves me.  He will never leave me nor forsake me.  I can trust God to be faithful in every area of my life.  I have learned fear flees in the face of Jesus.  If I keep my eyes on Jesus, fear cannot defeat my faith.

We need to identify the strongholds of fear in our lives. Fear of man. Fear of finances. Fear of failure. Fear of sickness. Fear of intimacy. Fear of risk. Fear of surrendering all to God. There are so many phobias that can plague us, it is impossible to name them all.

Take time to identify your fears. Step out of the boat and keep your eyes on Jesus. He will do all that is necessary for you to be great in God’s service. Often, it is over time, that we overcome our fears as we learn to trust God and walk fully in the Spirit.

Even then, Satan knows our fears and will attack us in our weakest points. Once you learn to walk in the Spirit as Peter did, your faith will be greater than your fears.

Declare the lyrics of this song by Bethel Music, “No longer Slaves,” when fear comes to enslave you. Believe the Scripture and speak forth the words of liberty as Jesus came to set the captives free.

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**"No Longer Slaves"**

You unravel me with a melody

You surround me with a song

Of deliverance from my enemies

'Til all my fears are gone

*[2x]*

I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God

From my mother's womb

You have chosen me

Love has called my name

I've been born again

Into your family

Your blood flows through my veins

*[4x]*

I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God

I am surrounded

By the arms of the father

I am surrounded

By songs of deliverance

We've been liberated

From our bondage

We're the sons and the daughters

Let us sing our freedom

You split the sea

So I could walk right through it

My fears were drowned in perfect love

You rescued me

And I could stand and sing

I am a child of God...

Yes, I am

I am a child of God

I am a child of God

Yes, I am

I am a child of God

Full of faith

Yes, I am a child of God

I am a child of God

*[3x]*

I'm no longer a slave to fear

I am a child of God

WHEN FAITH BECOMES GREATER THAN OUR FEARS

David was a young shepherd boy when he acted with a faith that overcame his fears. His father had sent him on a mission to take food and supplies to his brothers in the army facing battle against the Philistines.

When he arrived at the camp he found everyone cowering in fear. These once brave soldiers had been confronted with a giant of a champion named Goliath. He was massive in physical size and boasted of his victories. He had never been defeated.

As he challenged the Israeli soldiers to fight him, he mocked the God of Israel. All the soldiers and king Saul believed no one could defeat Goliath in battle.

In discovering that his brothers and the soldiers were paralyzed with fear, David became incensed. Although he was but a young teenager, half the size of Goliath, he cried that he would fight him.

His brothers mocked him. The king refused to let him fight Goliath. Yet, David persisted. He would not let this world champion “defy the armies of the living God.” He said to the king, “Let no man’s heart fail because of Goliath; your servant will go and fight the Philistine.”

When the king continued to oppose David, he reminded Saul that he had fought and defeated both lion and bear when they tried to take his father’s sheep. “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

King Saul relented. “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

Can you imagine the spirit of fear that now attempted to discourage David? You are but a boy. He will devour you. No one believes in you. All are afraid. He is twice your size and a trained warrior. He will devour you. He will torture you and then kill you. But David would not listen to the voice of fear.

David knew nothing was impossible for His God. He humbly, but boldly went to face the giant. Goliath mocked him. “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” Goliath cursed David by his gods.

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you defy.”

As I quote these words from ISamuel 18, I can feel the Spirit of God rise up in me. I am reminded that fear has no control over me, but my faith in God is greater than any fear. I am inspired to know the victory of Christ that He promises in all areas of my life!

“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beats of the earth, that all the world may know that there is a God in Israel.”

“Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give you into our hands.”

The battle was on. David spoke the word of faith in the face of the giant. God delivered the giant into his hands. He struck the giant with a stone from his sling and then cut off his head. The Philistines saw their champion dead and fled. Israel won a great victory that day.

It is truly a moment and day of triumph when we believe God at His word, when we speak His truth, and then act on our faith and see the enemy scattered.

There are many giants that come against us in life. They produce fear in us to defeat us and enslave us. In Christ, in His strength and by His might, we can defeat the giants of life. Our faith is greater than our fears when we know Christ and His promises. When we can speak His words of victory by faith and not doubt, but believe in Him, fear and our enemies must flee.

PETER’S DAY OF LIBERATION AND VICTORY

For Peter, the day of his faith overcoming his fears was later in his life than David, but it was no less a victory of faith!

After Peter was baptized in the Holy Spirit, 50 days after he denied Jesus three times, and after Jesus was crucified by the leaders of Jerusalem, and when he was confronted by these same leaders, who he knew could put him to death as they did Jesus, he did not compromise or deny Jesus.

Instead, he boldly confronted them with the salvation of Jesus when they threatened to beat him. He said he would not keep silent. Jesus was the only name under heaven by which a person could be saved. He became known as one who turned the world upside down. That is a true world changer.

The day of being liberated from one’s fear is a moment of unimaginable joy. I do not have to be enslaved by fear. I do not have to live in fear anymore. The realization that in Christ fear can no longer rob me of the abundant life God has for me in Christ Jesus. That is the day the potential of God in you begins to shine forth in your life. This is what happened to a Zambian woman at one of our Holy Spirit Encounters.

The frontier village of Mwinnilunga, Zambia reminds me of an old west one street town. You drive on one road through a vast wilderness, then suddenly you come to an outpost of civilization. Along this sole street are the stores and markets. People are walking up and down this life blood of commerce.

Here, we were hosting a Holy Spirit Encounter at the Methodist Church. It was Delbert’s turn to preach that afternoon. The church was filled with people eager to experience the Person, Presence, and power of God. Delbert taught how Christ came to set us free from our fears.

As most people in the world, many Zambians live in fear. Fear of the witch doctor. Fear of curses that will ruin their lives. Fear of failure. Fear of trying to make it through life. Fear of death. Their life decisions are controlled by fear.

Jesus has come to liberate us from a fearful existence. He has defeated Satan and his demons. Sin and death have been conquered on the cross. His resurrection from the dead assures us His promises are certain. He is the Son of God who came to set the captives free.

If this is all true, then there is no need to fear anyone or anything in life. Jesus is all powerful and the “witch doctors in this world” have no power over us. The chains have been removed. The prison doors opened. We are free in Christ Jesus.

At the end of the service, one fearful woman, among many others, came forward for prayer and deliverance. Delbert in praying with her discovered she was consumed with the fear of dying. Where would she spend eternity when she died?

Delbert was able to lead her to faith in Jesus Christ. She was set free from her fear and left full of hope in the knowledge Jesus was God in human form. Her sins were forgiven. She was no longer in bondage to sin and death. No one had power over her life. She would live forever in the glorious Presence of God.

Jesus had given her authority to drive away all fears that sought to enslave her. No one was greater than Jesus. Therefore, she was safe and secure from all harm as she trusted in Jesus. Simple faith that brings peace beyond understanding.

Delbert was ecstatic in what God had done in her life and many others. The victory of the cross and the blood of Jesus had set another free unto eternal life. We rejoiced together in the victory. The joy overwhelmed us as we once more experienced the power of faith in these people’s lives.

You see they live in the spirit realm as well as the physical. You give them the truth and they believe. There are no doubts. God is able to work miracles, because of their simple faith.

Several weeks passed. Delbert heard that this woman was telling others of her new freedom in Christ. She was walking in the triumph of the cross of Christ. Then she suddenly went home to be with Jesus. Her life on earth ended in peace. No fear of death. Her witness in Mwinnilunga had a powerful impact on people, so they too began to walk with Jesus without fear.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

She was a woman in love with Jesus, called to be a messenger of hope.  She lived in Congo and was sent to Zambia as a missionary of Jesus Christ.  Josephine is a woman who has had to face her fears being a woman in a male dominated culture.

I can imagine her flesh questioning constantly, as a woman you are not worthy; God cannot use you; men will not listen to you; you will never succeed as a woman in this tribal culture; you cannot do what men do...

Yet, she kept her eyes on Jesus.  She stepped out of the boat and walked on the water.  The waves and wind tried to overcome her faith with fear.  She did not sink.  She kept gazing at Jesus.  His love comforted her.  The Holy Spirit empowered her to do all things through Christ Jesus.

When the program of missionaries of hope was cut, she did not lose faith.  She ended up at New Life Center.  She worked tirelessly for Jesus and the staff.  She became a role model for every woman who came to New Life Center.  Here was a woman succeeding in a man's world.  If she could do it so could these women.  She was showing them how to be a world changer for Jesus.

She taught them a woman could learn to read and write and become educated.  She taught them how to love God and their families.  She taught them about Jesus and how to keep healthy and strong.

Then one day, the head of New Life Center, Charles, left to become a missionary to Brazil.  Josephine was appointed the head of New Life Center.  The demons of fear tried to drown her.  How could she succeed the great men who had run New Life Center and helped bring revival and hope to the Zambian people?

Yet, her faith was greater than her fears.  Josephine has done a marvelous job.  Filled and empowered by the Spirit, she has managed the center with amazing skill.  She has inspired both men and women to live for Jesus and become world changers for the Master.  She is leading New Life Center to new levels of impact upon lives.  She is still a mighty messenger of hope.

A poor woman from the Congo, who left all she had to follow Jesus to Zambia, has changed the world in which she lives.  So many will testify to her sacrificial service and how she continues to bring life and hope to countless lives.

Do not let fear or unbelief or sin keep you from being a world changer.  Let the Holy Spirit transform you and make you into a world changer for Jesus.  God believes in you.  Believe God will do it in you for His glory. Keep your eyes on Jesus and not on the circumstance that seek to control you and instill fear into your mind. “Greater is He who is in you than he that is the world.”

CHAPTER FOUR

OWN GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES

MARK 8:27-33

Jesus spoke this word openly (concerning going to Jerusalem, being betrayed and killed, only to rise from the dead.).  Then Peter took Him aside and rebuked Him… Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind me Satan!  For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Those words had to sting Peter's soul.  I imagine he did not sleep well that night.  It seems Jesus gave Peter several lessons that made him ponder his wrongful thoughts and actions.  If Peter were to become the world changer Jesus needed, he had to put away his wrong thinking and begin to have the mind of Christ.

That is the challenge for all of us.  As Peter loved Jesus and desired to follow Him with all of his heart, so do we.  Yet, we have many strongholds in our minds that distort the ways of Christ or rebel in following His truth.

We must know the plans and purposes of God for this age in which we live and for the one to come. This season is about making disciples of all nations, by going into all the world, leading the peoples of the earth to follow Christ, and training them to do all Jesus commanded us.

We need to have the right mindset in how we fit into this vision and to let God use our lives accordingly. Unfortunately, most followers of Jesus never understand this and go about living their lives for their own plans and purposes. That person will never become a world changer for Jesus with that self centered thinking.

In Peter's case, his thinking was filled with false concepts of the Messiah, who He was and what He came to do.  Jesus had to tear down those strongholds and that is often difficult and painful.  We love to hold onto our prejudices and judgmental thinking.  They have usually been with us a long time and are part of our make-up.

Peter believed the Messiah would come as a warrior king to drive out the Romans and establish Israel as the kingdom of God.  Jesus, as the Messiah, did not come the first time to become a political king.  He came to die for us as the sacrificial Lamb of God to pay the price for our sins, to redeem us from the wrath of God and to reconcile us to God.  He came to save us from eternal separation from God so we could live forever in His Presence.

Thus, Peter rebukes Jesus when He shares that He goes to Jerusalem to suffer many things, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days, rise again.

This teaching was so important that we have three accounts of Jesus doing this on His way to Jerusalem to die.  Yet, Peter and the disciples were so ingrained with false teaching they never understood Jesus until after His resurrection.

In becoming a world changer for Jesus, we have to learn His plans and purposes, and His vision and mission for us.  We need to put aside our false thinking and have the mind of God.  That is a life long process of tearing down strongholds in our minds and rebuilding on the person and truth of Jesus.  He becomes our stronghold.  We run to Him in times of testing and stress, not to our old habits and false doctrine.

That is why we need to be students of His Word, taught by the Spirit and filled with the Spirit, so we can discern God's mind on His plans and purposes different from our own.  With so many voices bombarding us from the world, we can be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and philosophies of men.

Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice and follow Me."  My perception today is that His sheep are hearing the voice of the world and rejecting His voice for the ways of men.  If we are serious about following Jesus and becoming world changers for Him, we will suffer, be mocked and rejected.  "Rejoice when you are persecuted for Jesus' sake!"  May we have the mind of Christ and not the mind of men.

That wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, which is an awesome respect for God that moves us in humility to sit at Jesus’ feet to learn from Him. Then we become doers of His word.

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teachings, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” Matthew 7:24-29.

Too many people wait until the storms come and their house is falling before they turn to Jesus. The wise man listens to Jesus and obeys his words. He puts into practice what he learns. No matter what happens in life his house will never fall for it rests upon Jesus.

This is no half-hearted commitment. It is complete surrender of one’s life to Jesus. It is so growing in love with Jesus that the desire of one’s heart is to love and obey Him no matter the cost.

In war, half hearted action leads to failure, death, and defeat. We are at war in this life with Satan and his demons, with our flesh and the world. One thing I have learned from history, those who do not fight with complete dedication to victory lose in the end no matter how powerful they are. The same goes for followers of Jesus.

Jesus outlines this unconditional dedication and surrender when He gathered His disciples and taught them. “Whoever desires to come after Me, let Him deny Himself, and take up His cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” Mark 8:34-38.

To follow Jesus is to live completely for Him and His vision and mission. That means our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our finances, our obedience to honor Him and His word, all we are and have are for Him.

How many today, in the church are rejecting His words in order to satisfy their flesh and the laws of men? We have already seen it in our Supreme Court, in our legislature, and executive branch, they are rewriting the laws of God for the desires of men.

How many are rejecting the sanctity of marriage to sleep together before their wedding night? How many babies have been killed, because men have disregarded their leadership and protection of women? How many have no fear of God? How many are building bigger barns while the poor go hungry? How many have devised their own system of living in selfish disobedience to the ways of God?

“There is a way that appear to be right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” Proverbs 16:25.

DAVID’S SACRIFICE AND COST TO LIVE GOD’S WAY

I would wager that when David was anointed king by Samuel, he could not comprehend all that this meant for him or Israel. He was still a young teenager, a poor shepherd who knew nothing of being a king. Yet, his destiny was sealed when the prophet poured oil over him and proclaimed him king in the privacy of his home.

David then found himself in the king’s palace serving Saul. He began to lead his armies to victory after victory. He was hailed by the women above Saul. “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

Saul became jealous and angry against David. He tried to kill him. Then, he drove him out of the palace into the wilderness. It was years of suffering and fleeing for his life.

Twice he was given the chance to kill Saul and become king. His friends urged him to do so, but he refused. “…But my eye spared you, and I said, I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.”

Despite his weary existence in the desolate lands of Israel, David was committed to follow God’s plan, His way, and not take things into his own hands. He would not usurp the throne by his actions. He would allow God to bring about His promises in His time.

How hard that had to be for David, when all he had to do was strike and his years of struggle would be ended. Kill Saul and he would be king. Why endure such suffering and persecution? It made no sense to his friends and followers. Man’s ways seem right, but they lead to death. David knew to kill Saul was wrong. He resisted making himself king. He trusted God and God’s way leads to life.

In the end, Saul was killed in battle with his sons. This allowed the entire nation eventually to unite behind David. Yes, he still had to fight a brief civil war against the house of Saul, but because he allowed God to bring his kingship to fruition, everyone pledged allegiance to David. This enabled David, by God’s strength, to establish the most powerful nation to dominate the Middle East when his son, Solomon, took the throne. David’s sacrifice in years of yielding to God would eventually bring salvation to the world through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

God’s plans and purposes are perfect even in the midst of persecution and suffering. Our Creator will test us as He tested David. If we remain faithful to God in obedience to His leading we will triumph. If we try to make ourselves king, it can bring confusion and defeat in the final outcome.

Let us reject the ways of men and religion for the ways of Christ. Let us declare Jesus our Master and fulfill His vision and mission for this age. He asks us to follow Him. The Holy Spirit will transform us, lead us, empower us, anoint us, and fill us to do His will. This is the way of life. It is being part of God’s vision to make disciples of all nations and to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

I first met Charles, when he was around seventeen.  He looked even younger, so he seemed wise beyond his years.  This talented young man would be my translator for years in Zambia.  He knew nine languages and more importantly he was anointed of God and filled with His Spirit.

He would become a pastor, evangelist, and head of New Life Center.  From being orphaned at a young age, he would be nurtured by his brother and uncle Gene Kolonga, to become a world changer for Jesus.

I still remember him sharing with me one of the most challenging stories I have ever had told to me.  He had been praying in a field outside Kitwe, Zambia.  Policemen suddenly came upon him and arrested him, thinking he was a drug dealer they were chasing in this same field.

Even though he was innocent, he was taken to jail and then sent to prison.  In Zambia this is very serious as to even survive the conditions of prison.  As he sat in prison in the squalor and filth, he could not believe God had allowed this to happen to him.  He felt sorry for himself and could not accept his condition.

Several attempts were made to get him released and even though all involved believed him innocent, he remained in prison.  The system was broken, so he languished for months suffering both physically and spiritually.

One night, God came to him and assured him this was His plan for Charles.  He wanted to use him to minister to the prisoners.  Suddenly, his despair left him and he accepted his assignment with joy.

Out of this time of trial, Charles led hundreds of prisoners to Christ.  He established a weekly prison ministry.  Countless lives were renewed and given hope with spiritual and physical nurture.  The entire condition of the prison changed for good.  God used him to impact his world for great good under the worst conditions.

Finally, he was released as proven innocent.  Yet, Charles did not forget God's plans and purposes for this prison.  He continued to go back weekly and established a continuing ministry to the prisoners.  He raised up partners to help him and it continues to this day.

Through the years Charles helped lead the spreading fire of God throughout Zambia.  His connections brought us to Chief Kanyama in the Lunda tribe.  As shared earlier, the power of God and His salvation is multiplying throughout that area of Central Africa.

Charles became the head of New Life Center.  It is perhaps one of the best positions in his church with wonderful housing, food, income, and ministry opportunities. God has used him greatly to be an inspiration and role model to especially the youth of Zambia and to change their culture for good.

Yet, he has learned to follow Jesus and not his own ways.  God recently called him to leave this prestigious position to become a missionary to Brazil.  This was quite a difficult surrender, but Charles and his wife Barbara packed up the family for a new assignment in Brazil.

Charles went because he has the mind of Christ and not the mind of men.  The plans, purposes, vision, and mission of God are his to fulfill in the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.  He truly is a world changer for the Master.

CHAPTER FIVE

TO KNOW JESUS FOR WHO HE IS AND NOTHING LESS

MATTHEW 16:13-20

"Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

To be a world changer for Jesus you have to know Jesus on an intimate level of love and obedience.  Peter began to have the revelation of who Jesus is from the very start of his relationship with Jesus.  He turned water into wine.  He gave them an unsurpassed catch of fish.  He fed thousands with a few loaves and fishes.

Jesus taught with authority and power as no one had ever done.  He loved people beyond human expression.  He forgave their sins and revealed the glory of God that He knew before creation began.

Finally, after almost three years of teaching and demonstration, of empowering and sending him out to do what He did, Jesus asked him and his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Even then, Peter's answer came not from his own mind, but from the Father in heaven.  "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Christ means the anointed king of God, whom He sent to save the world from its sin.

Son of the living God means He is the incarnate, only begotten Son of God.  He is the Word made flesh.  He is fully God and fully human, a mystery that defies our logic, but is affirmed in His resurrection from the dead and as told to us by God in His Word.

To be a world changer for Jesus, one must be set free from the limited thoughts of men and enter into the glory of God and His revelation truth.  The Spirit of God makes plain the truth of God that the gods of this age have blinded us to.  We cannot see the revelation of God's love and truth, but the Spirit makes it known to us as He gives us spiritual eyes to see.

A world changer for Jesus has made that step of faith into trusting Jesus with his/her whole life.  They become filled with the very Presence of God as they are baptized in the Spirit, empowered to be His witnesses and love as Jesus loved.

They know God as the loving, holy Father, because they know Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords.  "For this is eternal life, to know the one true God and His Son Whom He has sent."

With such faith in God all things are possible.  People leave all they have to follow Jesus.  God uses them to change the world and prepare the way for Jesus' Second Coming.

So many today, want to limit Who Jesus is.  He was a great teacher, a mighty prophet.  He loved God and helped many people, but they deny His nature as Divine and human.  They reject His death on the cross for our sins and scoff at His Resurrection from the dead.  Thus, they never know the wonder and beauty of Who Jesus really is.

As one old wise man said, “they have never tasted of my Jesus.”  To taste of Him and to see Who He is and what He has done is a destiny changer for eternity.  I have tasted of Jesus.  I have met Him and am with Him every day.  He is alive and coming back to establish His kingdom of righteousness and justice forever.

DAVID TASTED OF THIS JESUS

King David wrote twenty Psalms of the Messiah. He had a prophetic taste of the Lord of Hosts. He knew He was God’s Son, Psalm 2. He knew He would be the Suffering Servant and die on the cross, Psalm 22. He knew He would be the King over the nations of the earth, Psalm 2 and 24.

Did he know the fullness of who the Messiah was, as fully God and fully man? Prophetically yes. In his mind and heart, perhaps. Peter did not recognize or understand the Deity of Christ until after the Resurrection, so David may not have either.

Isaiah took David’s themes of the Messiah and expanded on them. He wrote of the Messiah that He would be God’s Son, chapter 9. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace…”

The entirety of chapter 53 portrays the Messiah as God’s suffering Servant, Who gives His life for our sins, “…By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities...”

The dichotomy of the Messiah suffering and dying, but also reigning as king confused many. Most did not understand He would come once to die and a second time to rule.

When Jesus was questioned by the religious leaders in Jerusalem of who He was, He challenged them with the questions, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.”

Jesus said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord, saying: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?” If David then calls Him Lord, how is He his son?

This is from David’s psalm 110:1. David knew a dimension of the Messiah that became quite clear after the Resurrection. Jesus the Christ is fully God and fully human. It is a concept that is difficult to grasp and even more so to believe. Yet, as God told Abraham, “With God nothing is impossible.”

The struggle for many is that God cannot become human because He would then be sinful and part of this evil world. Yet, we know Jesus was without sin. The only human being ever to live who never sinned.

He resisted the temptations of the Devil in the wilderness and remained faithful to the will of His Father even unto death. That is why He was the perfect, blameless sacrifice on the cross, acceptable to God as the propitiation for our sins.

David’s own life is a forerunner of Jesus the Messiah. David was the suffering servant, then he became King. Jesus suffered for our sins unto death. Soon He will return as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Have you tasted of this Jesus as David and Peter did?  If not, He invites you to know Him.  Turn from your sin, confess and repent of your sins, and give your life completely to Jesus.  Hold nothing back.  By faith in Him and what He has done for you, surrender your heart to Him and follow Him in love every day of your life.

Behold, He stands at the door of your heart and asks you, "Who do you say that I am?"  If you open your heart and welcome Him, He will come in and save you from every sin you have ever committed.  He will cleanse you and remove the weight of your shame and guilt.  You will be free from the bondage of your sin to live in love with Jesus.  Go ahead and give Him your life right now.  Say to Him, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I pledge you my life, my love, my loyalty, and devotion as Savior of my soul.”

WORLD CHANGERS FOR JESUS

Bernard and Betty moved from the Congo to Zambezi, Zambia.  It is a town at the ends of the earth, the last frontier of civilization on the mighty Zambezi River.  They gave up a successful job and nice home to follow Jesus.  Like Abraham they left all to follow God's call.

Over time they established the Lord's Mountain, a beautiful orphanage that cares for 35 children and ministers to countless others through their church and personal presence.

They have endured the suffering of intense religious persecution, relational betrayal, and the hardships of ministry on the edge of the wilderness.  Many times they have been tested.  Those of lesser faith would have quit and gone home without a sense of shame, but they have held to Jesus and His call.  They have paid a heavy price, but they rejoice and are fruitful beyond wonder.

My first visit to Zambezi came early in my ministry in Zambia.  Delbert took me and a team to do a crusade.  After over 12 hours of travel on some of the worst roads in Africa, not the worst- those are in the Congo, we arrived at dusk.

We came over a hill and there a large crowd met us waving palm branches and singing praises to God.  I felt like Jesus entering Jerusalem when they hailed Him as king. It was a wonderful welcome and celebration of love. It was more than we deserved from these wonderful and loving people.

The power of God was released in those meetings during our nightly services.  We saw a man blind for over 20 years receive his sight.  A woman who crawled in the dirt unable to walk gave her life to Jesus and stood up to walk and leap and exalt Jesus.

When we left to go back to New Life Center and then home to America we heard many more stories of the miracles of God. They happened because Bernard and Betty were faithful to deny their own plans for the purposes of Jesus. The world of their influence transformed the town in which they live. Homeless children found a home of love at Lord’s Mountain. Sick people were healed. The hopeless came to know hope in Jesus Christ. Many were given a new vision for living.

Bernard and Betty are world changers for Jesus.  They have impacted their world with the love and hope of Jesus Christ.  People are prospering in the spirit and in every area of life.  It is glorious to see the glory of God in their faces and their hearts.

I am blessed every time we visit Bernard and Betty.  Their warm hospitality inspires me.  They are my heroes as are all the pastors, leaders, and evangelists in Zambia that I know.  They endure what we would run from in a heartbeat.  Still, they give praise to God and build His kingdom.

As they sow seeds, we have seen through the years a bountiful harvest that is multiplying throughout Zambia in souls and material advancement.  The cloud of His glory continues to spread because of faithful servants like Bernard and Betty.

Few people know their name.  They are the nameless, unknown followers of Jesus that make Jesus' name great among the nations of the earth, preparing for His return.  They deserve the highest reward in heaven for their relentless service for Jesus.

"Well done good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Master."

CHAPTER SIX

ADOPTING A KINGDOM LIFE STYLE :

THE MANTLE OF SERVANTHOOD

JOHN 13:1-21:25

"Now before the Feast of Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end."

In the last hours of Jesus' life that led to His crucifixion, Jesus taught Peter and the disciples some key principles of what it means to live as a world changer.  These include servanthood, divine love, what it means to die for those you love, and the necessity of forgiveness in maintaining strong relationships.

Jesus begins this night that will end in His betrayal by Judas with the mantle of servanthood.  He washes His disciples’ feet as an example that they should wash one another's feet.  He tells them to not only know the call to servanthood intellectually, but to act out these principles.  If they do, they will be blessed.

These are His leaders for the new covenant community that He will have them build in the years ahead.  As leaders, they will be esteemed as great, but they must never forget that leaders are to wash one another's feet.  Even the greatest among them, as Jesus is, needs to live with this humble attitude and lifestyle.

On their way to Jerusalem in Mark 10:35-45, Jesus teaches them that they are not to be like the Gentile rulers to lord over their subjects.  Greatness is not in exercising authority over others, but in serving them.  "And whoever desires to be great among you shall be slave of all.  For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

This sets the tone of leadership in Christ's body.  This reminds us of the attitude we are to maintain with one another.  We do not have to get our way or appear to be great in the eyes of others.  Instead, we are to do "nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each one esteem others better than himself."  Phil. 2:3.

In other words, we are not to ask what's in it for me.  It is about Jesus and impacting His kingdom in serving others.  We must die to our self interests.  "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...I am crucified with Christ..."Gal. 2:20.

This is hard because it strikes at the heart of our corrupt sin nature that still wants to be like God.  When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, the future human race, our DNA in the physical and spiritual became corrupted. We do not function as God originally created us.  We cannot help but sin and rebel against God.  Even on our best day, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23.

Peter demonstrated this corruption often as he was about making a name for himself.  He had to learn to yield his life to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to tear down those strongholds of selfish ambition, and transform him in his mind to think with the mind of Christ.

Jesus gave no attention to His glory and greatness.  "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and being in the likeness of man.  And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross."  Phil. 2:5-8.

As a follower of Christ, Peter had to put away the temptation of how will I look before men in this situation.  Instead, how can I serve Jesus and others, no matter what it looks like.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, he had to rebuke Peter when Peter shunned the new Gentile believers to conform to the peer pressure of his Jewish friends. Rather, Peter was to look out for the interests of these Gentiles, whom he had been taught his entire life to scorn and look down upon as unworthy of God’s love.

He had to see them as equals, created in the image of God. They had value and meaning and purpose just as the Jews had in God’s eyes. He was to serve them and love them as brothers and sisters in his family.

Servants in God’s kingdom have no place for prejudice or superiority. There are no rich or poor, Jew or Gentile, male or female, but all are one in Christ.

This paradigm shift in Peter’s thinking could only come from Jesus as his role model and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in His life. For all of us it is hard to think we are servants for one another, to wash each others feet and go the extra mile.

Jesus came to serve and not to be served. This turns the world upside down. In the kingdom of men, we desire to rule and dominate. Others are there to serve us, to die for us, and to be used for our advantage.

In Jesus’ kingdom, the leader dies for His people. Jesus came to lay down His life for those who hated and despised Him. It was love that motivated his heart to give His life for us. Love motivates us to serve one another and to lay down our lives.

Jesus embodied all of these teachings when He went to the cross without complaint. For a follower of Jesus there is no place for murmuring and complaining.  "Do all things without complaining and disputing." Phil. 2:14. Accept what God has called you to be and do.  Use it for His glory to serve Him and others.

Now, that is a tough one.  Keep it in balance in the context of God's commission for your life as a world changer.  It does not mean we submit to abusive language and sexual abuse.  It does not turn us into doormats to be walked over in cruelty.

It means we submit to God and each other in our lifestyle of serving God and one another to fulfill His plans and purposes.  Sometimes it means great sacrifice on our part and to endure without criticizing or saying to God, I deserve better than this.

What we learn from Jesus is that a servant heart produces obedience, even unto death on the cross.  "If you love Me, you will obey Me."  The test of love is denying self, taking up one's cross and following Jesus.  A true servant does not argue with his Master, but in love, obeys His commands.  He hears Him clearly and then does what he is commanded to do.

BORN TO BE A SERVANT

Before David ever became king, he was born to be a servant. He served his father as his shepherd. He served his brothers as the youngest in the family. He served King Saul in his house. He served Jonathan, the king’s son. He served God as His faithful servant.

When he rose to be king, he reigned with a servant heart. This lifestyle was best expressed in his worship of God. David had a passion and a gift for worship in music, writing, and exalting God with every fiber of his being.

His desire to serve God using his creative talents has influenced the world for thousands of years. It is a timeless expression of love for God in thanksgiving, gratitude, adoration, description of His majesty and glory and in how we can love, obey and serve the Creator of the universe.

David lived his servant heart for God as a witness to his love for the One who saved him and delivered him from his enemies. David was plagued by enemies most of his life. From the bear and lion to king Saul to the Philistines and to the aggressive nations surrounding Israel, to his son Absalom, to those who desired to ruin his reign and become king, David withstood the onslaughts of his enemies.

In a sense, David reflected his concept of God. Even though he was created to serve God with his gifts and talents, he may have felt God had served his life. He was but a simple shepherd whom God ordained to become king of Israel. God initiated an everlasting covenant with David that his descendant would rule Israel and the nations of the earth forever.

One of the main teachings of covenant is the Divine exchange of servanthood. God gives all He has to serve our needs as we give all we have to serve God. It is a bond of love in faithful relationship that can never be broken.

It is a wonderful gift from God to discover His call on one’s life as a servant of the Master. It is quite liberating to yield oneself to God and place one’s life totally in His Hands. As David wrote in Psalm 84:10, “It is better to serve one day in the court of the King than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.” (my paraphrase).

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

He was a truck driver, who became a king.  His father was Chief Kanyama of the Lunda tribe.  When his father died, his sister was called to be the chief.  Yet, she humbled herself as a mighty woman of God, and gave the chiefdom to her brother, now the young Chief Kanyama.

As chief he has almost absolute power over his people.  When I first met Chief Kanyama, we came to his palace and knelt before him as he entered.  I soon discovered that this chief was much loved, because he lived as a servant of his God and his people.

He came to love Jesus and thus, God could use him to change his world.  The first night he asked me to preach on the baptism of the Holy Spirit.  He was one of the first of his people to have the Holy Spirit poured out upon his life.  He was struck with a lightning bolt from heaven and filled with the Holy Spirit.

He now receives dreams and visions from God.  His heart is to see all of the Lunda chiefs and people come to Christ and evangelize all of Central Africa.

He is a humble man who gives public testimony to his faith.  One Sunday morning in church he gave testimony to how he wanted to give up converting his kingdom into a Christian tribe.  The struggles and test were too great.  The witch doctors and demon worshipers gave him much trouble.

Then he heard my message on God's call on his life to be the Isaac of his father, who represented Abraham.  He was to carry on the covenant of God through Jesus Christ.  The power of the Holy Spirit was stirred up in him.  Now he was ready to continue to fulfill God's call for his life and all of the Lunda chiefs and people!

Another time in church he showed his vulnerability and humility.  A missionary had offended him terribly.  It would not be out of place for his leaders to put this man to death for what he did.  Instead, he allowed him to live.

Then, at this service a year later, he got up in front of the congregation, as chief, and forgave the missionary and asked for forgiveness for anything he had done to the missionary.  Both he and the missionary embraced for all the people to see.

This act of servanthood is unheard of in the world, but it is the way of life in Jesus’ kingdom. We are all equal and servants of one another. We must choose not to be offended but to love and forgive.

Since Chief Kanyama began to rule and uphold the truth of Jesus Christ in the face of strong adversity, God has blessed his people.  Their corn production and farming has multiplied from one of the worst areas in Zambia to the best in all of Zambia.

His cattle have increased in births and production.  The newborn babies of his people do not die as they used to.  Miracles of healing have blessed his people.  Many of his leaders in opposition have surrendered their lives to Christ.  Now other chiefs are saying we want our tribe to be followers of Jesus.

One recently publicly declared his people Christian and was anointed before them as a follower of Jesus.

Chief Kanyama has become a world changer for Jesus.  His servant leadership has blessed his people and honored God.

ADOPTING A KINGDOM LIFE STYLE OF LOVE

John 13:31-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

If Peter was to become the leader Jesus could use to change the world, he needed a heart transplant that would pump the love of God through his veins. Peter loved as most men love with a combination of self interest and a true desire to sacrifice for those he loved.

This was a limited love in depth and action. Peter told Jesus he would die for Him at the Last Supper meal. He meant it, but when it came down to action he denied Jesus three times.

After the Resurrection and Pentecost, Peter had no fear of dying for Jesus. The reality of seeing Jesus raised from the dead and his being filled with the Holy Spirit changed his heart. He now could love as Jesus loved.

His love for Jesus and his love for people motivated Peter to overcome his innate desire for self preservation. The Holy Spirit in Him and the truth of Jesus as the Messiah set him free to live for Jesus and others regardless of the consequences. He learned the greatest expression of love can be to lay down one’s life.

Thus, he became Peter, the rock, world changer for Jesus. This rock of love that was now in Peter was not a hardened, inexpressible love, but one softened by the Master’s touch. It was a love that could endure the trials of life and overcome the attacks of his enemies. It dealt with betrayal with forgiveness, not with revenge.

It did not act out of self interest, but looked to the interest of others. It sought to obey God in union with His plan and purposes of redemption. He would go wherever the Holy Spirit sent him and do whatever he was commanded. He could not help but tell others of Jesus and His love even to the point of imprisonment or death by being hung upside down on a cross. He would never deny Jesus again.

At the heart of being a world changer is love.  This love is defined by Who Jesus is and what He does.  Jesus is the definition of love.  If you want to know what real love is, study the life of Jesus.  He loved as no other human being has ever loved because His was a divine love rarely expressed by us who have been corrupted by sin.

Most of our human love is self centered and self serving.  We tend to love people who can benefit us.  We give our love to others because of admirable qualities they exhibit.  We love based on strength and character of another.

Jesus loved regardless of a person’s strength and weaknesses.  His love was not motivated by another's wonderful qualities.  He loved because He is love.  He loved despite people's sins or terrible attitudes.  He loved the unlovable of His culture.  He always acted in love.  His is a redeeming love expressed in sacrificial action.

The greatest love is to lay down one's life for his friends.  Jesus lived this out by taking up His cross and literally being put to death on it, so we might have life.  He suffered ridicule and rejection because He loved the poor, the sinner, the sick, the hated tax collector, the adulterer, the religious bigot, even those who put Him to death.  "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Jesus loved His Father in heaven most of all.  They were and are one forever and beyond eternity.  The love of His Father motivated Jesus to leave His palace of heavenly glory to come to earth to die for us.  Jesus desired to please His Father and to obey His will.

Love moves us to obedience.  "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him."  Love is the greatest motivator to godly action.

The love of Jesus brings with it unlimited, unconditional, and eternal acceptance in God's family.  To know Jesus is to know love, that I am in His family.  I am at home with Him and His Father.  I am at peace and do not have to worry about earning God's love or favor.  I already have it no matter what I do or how I live.

The greatest gift God gives us is His love.  It is the gift of Himself in Jesus Christ.  To know I have God's love without conditions is to live in peace and be willing to do all to honor God.  This love strips us of our selfish, prideful, and ego centered soul.  We are willing to die for Jesus and others.  We become willing to sacrifice all for God and to reach others with the love of Jesus.

This kind of love is truly a gift from God as the Apostle Paul shares in ICorinthians 15.  In that chapter, Paul defines what God means by love.  Jesus embodied this love and His highest expression of this love was to die for us when we did not deserve it.

God pours this love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Romans 5:5.  It is the same love that motivated God to save us from His wrath and to reconcile us to Him in love.  This love grows in us as the Holy Spirit teaches us and transforms us.  As we learn to act in this love, we become more like Jesus everyday.

Do we fail?  Yes, too often, but we receive God's forgiveness and continue to yield to Him so the selfishness in us is removed and we look more and more like Jesus.  Just as a sculpture chips away the stone he does not want to form a beautiful statue, the Holy Spirit does this in us as we learn from Him and yield our lives to His Master design.

UNSURPASSED LOVE

When we study the life of David, one description of him I would highlight is that he had an unsurpassed love for God. This is seen in his music and writings, but also in his faithful obedience and intense loyalty to God.

When David confronts the giant Goliath, his love and loyalty to God at such a young age is inspiring. He refuses to allow anyone to mock his God and defy his people. David is willing to lay down his life in defense of Yahweh. Certainly, this is the greatest expression of love.

David has experienced an almost unprecedented intimacy with God. This developed early in his life as he roamed the fields of Bethlehem watching his father’s sheep. There is nothing better to grow in love than to spend hours alone with God. He had time to seek God and to commune with God. That makes us envious in our hectic day of fast schedules and pressure packed business.

All through the day he worshiped God and listened to His voice. When he became older as a warrior, then king, he always asked God’s advice and direction. God spoke clearly to David.

I grieve over some of our religious leaders who say you cannot hear from God today. He speaks to me constantly when I take time in His Presence. They are missing out on the depth of God’s love in their lives.

David knew God’s heart and shared His truth and love in His Psalms and in His interaction with his leaders and friends.

Where David fell short in his love was with his family. As with many men, he struggled to transfer his love for God to his family. He invested his energies with God and his kingdom. His family often got the left over crumbs.

It is a warning to all of us to let the love of God inspire our love for family, friends, and enemies. God will do it in us if we ask Him, believe Him, and obey Him. Love is God’s greatest gift and our most powerful witness to a world that often knows little of this divine love.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

Princess Betty is an unknown princess of love to almost all except those in the Lunda tribe and surrounding areas of Central Africa.  Her brother is now Chief Kanyama, who I wrote of in the last chapter.

She is a mighty woman, filled with the Person and power of the Holy Spirit, who loves Jesus with all of her heart.  She has a great desire to share Jesus with her people and to teach them His ways of love.  She does this by her actions.

She will pray for hours for her people.  She will go to other villages and share the love of Jesus.  She ministers to all, but especially to the children who look to her as an angel of God.

It is not easy to respond in love when you are attacked, but she loves the headsmen and witch doctors who reject Jesus and fight against the transformation of tribal customs to follow Jesus.  Yet, she is relentless in the face of opposition to live for Jesus and see Him exalted among her people.  You cannot imagine how hard that is in her tribal culture.

Many people live in fear of the witch doctor for he can curse and bring death or ruin to a person.  She responds in love and walks in victory over fear.  Thus, she does not compromise the truth and values of God that often conflict with her culture.

She has a wonderful heart to protect young girls from sexual abuse.  This is a terrible scourge upon those who follow the demons of witchcraft.  Women are little more than slaves to be used and abused by men for their pleasure.  She teaches these girls the value of being created in the image of God and the sacredness of marriage between one man and one woman.

She is such a spiritual leader, that she obeys the will of God no matter the cost.  When her father died, she was chosen as chief.  This is the most respected of positions and honors in her culture.  Yet, she knew God wanted her brother to be chief, so she stepped aside for him to take his place on the throne.  She gave up power and authority, without envy or strife, to see God pleased with His desire for her brother to reign.

Her love for Jesus and the love in her heart is one powerful witness in Central Africa.  She is one of the main reasons Jesus and His salvation is spreading from village to village.  She is willing to lay down her life for Jesus.  People see her sacrificial actions and respect her for her spiritual strength and love for Jesus.

Her greatest gift to her people is love.  That is the most powerful witness of all.  The people of Kanyama and the Lunda tribe are blessed because God has poured His love into her heart and she has poured out her love and life for her people.

ADOPTING A KINGDOM LIFESTYLE OF FORGIVENESS

JOHN 17:20-26

20“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21That they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may 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. 25O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it,* that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

In John 17, Jesus prays to His Father for Himself, for His disciples, and for us who will come to believe in Him.  For me, it is the most powerful prayer in the Bible.  At the end of His prayer, He asks for the three of the most important gifts God can give us: love, glory and unity.

All of these express the very nature of God.  Our Creator is One.  He is glorious.  He is love.  Yes, God is more than just those three virtues and characteristics.  He is holy.  He is righteous.  He is judge.  All are essential to our knowledge of God.  The key here is faith.

Jesus' heart is that we believe that God sent Him to be the Messiah, the Savior of the world.  He knows our only hope is to believe in Him and trust Him with our eternal souls.  For this hope to spread across the earth to every tribe, nation and tongue, we as believers need the oneness, the glory and the love of God.

Those gifts from God are absolutely necessary for us to be world changers for Jesus.  Jesus and His Father have role modeled the oneness, the glory, and the love He gives us to transform the world.

At the core of these world changing attributes is a lesson Jesus teaches Peter after His resurrection.  That is forgiveness.  Why forgiveness?  Because we often fail at love.  We are too divided by our prejudices and theologies and opinions.  We quench the glory by our failure to be one and to love.

Forgiveness enables us to be one, to love and to experience the glory of God in our midst.

Jesus said they will know us by our love for one another.  Love cannot be maintained without forgiveness.  The hurts, the unfaithful actions, the weakness of our soul to not do what we should do and to do things we know we should not do, can break the bonds of trust and destroy the oneness, love, and glory God has given us in the blood covenant of Jesus.

Forgiveness can restore what sin seeks to ruin.  Without forgiveness there can be no true love, oneness or glory.  Healthy relationships last because we are able to say I am sorry, forgive me.  Then we can also respond, I forgive you.  Forgiveness is God's gift of healing.  There are few words more powerful than those I have just shared when they are expressed in honesty and humility.

We all have rules by which we live.  When someone breaks those rules it can be hard for us to forgive no matter how repentant they are.  How many marriages, families and friendships are broken by someone's unwillingness to forgive.

Unforgiveness is a terrible master.  It enslaves us and shipwrecks the most beautiful love relationships.  It will destroy a body of believers.  It causes untold physical and spiritual ills.

Sometimes people do evil things to us.  Sexual abuse, betrayal, selfish ambition, stealing of finances and /or honor...the list is as long as human history.  We find it impossible to forgive.  Only Christ in us, by the healing power of the Holy Spirit, can we forgive the deepest of our wounds.  Only when we are able to forgive, are we set free.

The greatest example of this forgiveness is Jesus.  He is betrayed, rejected, and sentenced unfairly to death.  Injustice is one of our human being's unforgivable sins.  Yet, as Jesus hangs on the cross in utter misery, dying for us and the forgiveness of our sins, He cries out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

So, after the resurrection, when Peter has denied Jesus three times, Jesus teaches him the importance of forgiveness.  Without this forgiveness there will always be a pall, a thorn in their relationship, an unspoken fear and doubt that would undermine their love, their oneness, and the glory they share.

It is a hard word for Peter to hear, but spiritual surgery is often more painful than physical surgery.  Yet, is is needed just as much or more in our lives to have healthy relationships.

Three time Jesus asks Peter do you love Me.  Three times Peter answers, "Yes, Lord I love You. " In this gentle, yet convicting encounter, the beauty of forgiveness unfolds and Peter is set free to become the world changer Jesus has trained him to be.  He only lacks one more thing and Jesus will send that to him from heaven.

At this point I would believe Peter was thankful that Jesus had taught him to forgive seven times seventy.  That God's forgiveness was unlimited, unlike the heart's of men.  That our forgiveness needs to be like God's, not man's.  God looks to forgive first and foremost.  His priority is relationship before legalistic demands, which is his law and greatest commandment to love God, ourselves, one another, and our enemies.

Forgiveness impacts and changes the world more than any politician, general or invention.  Jesus came that our whole eternity and destiny would be transformed by the power of God's forgiveness through His sacrificial death and blood.

We need to accept and receive His forgiveness and give the same forgiveness to all who have wounded us.  It will be one of the most powerful ingredients in making us world changers for Jesus.

It enabled Peter to become the world leader Jesus destined him to be. The power of forgiveness brought out his potential as a world changer, because he could now express the heart of God’s love and not be controlled by his fears and insecurities. The truth of God’s love set him free to build healthy relationships and to demonstrate the love of God for all to see.

DAVID’S SECRET OF FORGIVENESS

David had an incredible capacity to forgive others and himself. I believe this was the result of His intimacy with God and his experience of how God had forgiven him. As Jesus said, he who is forgiven much, loves much. God forgave David of his adultery with Bathsheba, his murder of her husband, and the lies and deceit that accompanied these evil actions.

There were other sins recorded of David in his prideful actions of census and his failure to discipline his sons in the sins of the family. God was always gracious to forgive him no matter how terrible his sin.

Even when he lived a season of perhaps a year of a stubborn, rebellious heart, the result of his sins with Bathsheba, God acted to bring him to repentance. He sent the prophet Nathan to confront and expose his wicked behavior.

After Nathan had shared a touching story of a rich man who had stolen a poor man’s ewe lamb, David’s anger was aroused at this evil man. “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!”

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” Those words pierced David’s heart and brought him to humble repentance. They had to echo throughout the day and night in his mind. Out of this brokenness and forgiveness from God, he wrote Psalm 51:

Have mercy upon me, O God,

According to Your lovingkindness;

According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,

Blot out my transgressions.

**2**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

And cleanse me from my sin.

**3**

For I acknowledge my transgressions,

And my sin *is* always before me.

**4**

Against You, You only, have I sinned,

And done *this* evil in Your sight—

That You may be found just when You speak,[a]

*And* blameless when You judge.

**5**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

And in sin my mother conceived me.

**6**

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.

**7**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**8**

Make me hear joy and gladness,

*That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.

**9**

Hide Your face from my sins,

And blot out all my iniquities.

10

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**11**

Do not cast me away from Your presence,

And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

**12**

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

**13**

*Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,

And sinners shall be converted to You.

**14**

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,

The God of my salvation,

*And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

**15**

O Lord, open my lips,

And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

**16**

For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it;*

You do not delight in burnt offering.

**17**

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,

A broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise.

**18**

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;

Build the walls of Jerusalem.

**19**

Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,

With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;

Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Forgiveness flows from a heart that understands and accepts the unlimited forgiveness of God. When we realize that God has forgiven us our sins, so terrible, that if they were exposed to the world, our sense of shame would destroy us.

God has forgiven us our lies, our perversions, our stealing, our betrayals, our abuse, our murders, our adulteries, our idolatry, our pride and vanity…all have been cleansed from us by the blood of Jesus when we believe in Him and repent.

If God can forgive us without strings attached, we can forgive the worst of sins in others. May we always live with the same mercy and grace that God has shown us so we can then give to others and ourselves the same act of forgiveness God gave to us.

Often we withhold our forgiveness because we feel that person does not deserve forgiveness. Yet, God asks of us to forgive as He has forgiven us. We have all committed sins so wicked we do not deserve to be forgiven, but God does forgive us without reservation or rebuke.

When the prodigal son came home from a life of debauchery, his father did not berate him for sleeping with prostitutes and losing all of his money and honor.

He met him with open arms and embraced him and gave him the best clothes he had and threw him a splendid party. There was no need to chastise him. Love and forgiveness turned the tide of defeat and death into abundant life.

WORLD CHANGER FOR JESUS

Several years ago I had the opportunity to meet a remarkable man named Ken Suckling.  He is another one of the unknown Zambians who are changing the world for Jesus Christ.  He is a fourth generation Zambian transplant from England.  His great grandfather left his position as one of the leading surgeons in England to be a missionary in then Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia.

He sailed from England to Africa, then walked into the heart of south central Africa to share the love of Jesus.  He lost two children on the way.  I wonder what incredible strength this man and his wife had to continue to exalt Jesus in the midst of their loss and hardship.  Forgiveness had to be one of the virtues that sustained him.

Ken's father was a pastor/evangelist/missionary...When he was baptized with the Holy Spirit and began to follow the call of Christ, he was rejected by his people in England.  He literally lost all of his support, financial and leadership backing.  Ken was raised in poverty as his father labored under the call of Christ.

This planted a seed of unforgiveness in Ken against God and his father.  He loved God and his father dearly, but he wondered what kind of God would cause him to live as native Zambians in such poverty.  He wanted no part in his father's work.

When his dad was ready to pass the mantle of leadership to Ken, he rejected it.  Even though God had done the most powerful of work through his father.  He planted hundreds of churches and saw the glory of God spread through Zambia.  Ken said no.

It had to break his father's heart.  It definitely caused Ken to miss God's calling on his life.  Instead of becoming a world changer for Jesus, he stopped to become a successful businessman, (not that a world changer for Jesus cannot be a businessman, but this was not Ken's destiny).  God blessed him in his adventures with a beautiful wife, Claire, and a family of three children.

Yet, God continued to pursue Ken.  One day his business career came crashing to an end.  He pretty much lost everything.  He was humbled by this discipline from God.  For God wanted Ken to be a world changer for Jesus and he was on the wrong path.

He began to serve in the local church in England as a volunteer handy man.  Then, after proving faithful, he was added to the ministry staff.  God was grooming him.  Before he would return to Zambia as a powerful, Spirit filled evangelist in his sixties, He learned the lesson of forgiveness.

He had to ask God for forgiveness.  He had to forgive himself.  He had to forgive his father.  Once that was settled, he could be released to be the world changer he was born to be in Zambia.

I have to laugh as I think of Ken now and how we met.  I had to learn the lesson of forgiveness as well.  I was to be the main speaker at Chief Kanyama's Rain Festival as I had the previous year.  I traveled thousands of miles at great expense to get there.

Then, when I arrived I was told things had changed.  Ken Suckling had returned to Zambia and Chief Kanyama wanted him to speak.  I did not know Ken, but I was deeply disappointed at what had happened.  My flesh was unsettled.  Why had I traveled so far and spent so much money?

I had a choice to forgive or quench the Spirit in me and harbor an offense that I had been wronged.  I went to prayer and fortunately, the Spirit won.  I asked God's forgiveness for my pride and selfishness.  This was not about me.  It was about Jesus and His kingdom.

I gave forgiveness to all I felt I needed to forgive.  I experienced a wonderful release and freedom from any bitterness or slight that I foolishly wanted to harbor.

That night I met Ken.  I tried to be as gracious as I could.  I did not want to act with any unforgiveness in my heart.  Yes, only the Holy Spirit could do that in me, this prideful, self centered evangelist from America.

God worked in such power.  As I got to know Ken and listened to him, I knew we were one in the Spirit.  We came to love one another.  We have experienced the glory of God as we ministered together.

We have since traveled hundreds and hundreds of miles throughout Zambia doing crusades and seeing thousands baptized in the Holy Spirit, healed and saved from sin and death.  We team preach and evangelize.  It has been one of the great blessings of my life to partner with Ken.  We have known together the oneness, the love, and the glory of God.

If you want to be a world changer for Jesus, please learn to forgive.  Do not harbor any unforgiveness.  If you have some, go to God in prayer and you will experience the miracle of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.  Do it now.  Do not wait.  Kneel in His Presence and pour out your heart to God.  A marvelous gift awaits you!

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE BOOK OF ACTS 1-28

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8.

Can there be any more powerful impact on Peter's life than when he meets face to face with the resurrected Jesus?  Think about what effect this encounter has on Peter.  He knew Jesus was dead.  He knew the hopes and dreams of Jesus, himself, and the disciples were dead.  There is no return from death.

Now, Jesus enters the room where they are all gathered.  He reveals Himself as the Messiah, God's anointed Servant.  His hands and feet are pierced.  His side scarred from the lance.  This is no ghost or impostor.  It is Jesus risen from the dead to show He is God in the flesh, the Redeemer of all humanity.

What would you believe if you were there to witness Jesus and His appearance?  It is true.  There is a God and He has a plan to save humanity from sin and death.  Jesus is God's Son.  He has died for our sins.  He was dead, but now He lives.

The impact is life changing.  The awareness of this truth so impossible, is now reality.  There is no doubt.  All faith is in Jesus.  I must tell the world.  There is hope.  There is eternal life.  There is a God who loves us and He showed us His love by becoming a man and dying for us on the cross.  He has defeated sin and death.

I cannot contain myself.  I must tell everyone of this Jesus.  So, Peter is like a race horse at the gate ready to explode onto the track. His one desire is to serve Jesus and tell all of His love and His glory.  Let us go out and show everyone Jesus is alive.  He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Yet, Jesus tells him he is not yet ready.  There is one more lesson he must receive before he can go to the world.  For three years Jesus has trained this uneducated fisherman to turn the world upside down.  He knows God's love.  He knows Jesus is the Messiah.  He knows people are healed in His name.  He knows there is no salvation but in the name of Jesus.  All will bow to Him and confess He is Lord.

Jesus says wait in Jerusalem until you have been baptized with the Holy Spirit.  Then you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea, and to the ends of the earth.  If you go now you will fail.  You cannot do what I have done or what I expect you to do unless you are filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit.  I will send Him to you.  Then you will be the world changer I have taught you to be.  Then you will go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  You will teach them all I have commanded you.

For ten days, Peter and the disciples wait in Jerusalem.  They fast and pray and do all that is needed to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit.  They choose a new disciple to replace the traitor Judas.  They are of one accord, that Jesus is the Messiah and they are to tell everyone Who He is and what He has done.  Then invite them to repent of their sin and be baptized as one of His followers.

On the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover, crucifixion and resurrection, there is a mighty sound from heaven, a rushing wind blows into their room, tongues of fire appear on their heads and they are all filled with the Holy Spirit.  Thus begins the acts of the world changers for Jesus. The fullness of Peter’s potential is released in the glory of God’s Presence.

Peter will get up and preach the first message ever spoken that Jesus is the Messiah as proven by His resurrection from the dead.  Thousands of people will hear him as they gather on the steps of the temple.  With many words he testifies and exhorts them to be saved from this perverse generation.  Three thousand souls receive the invitation and are baptized with water as new followers of Jesus.

Within days, wonders and signs were done by the apostles.  They begin to meet with the believers in homes to teach them the ways of Jesus.  God added daily to their numbers.

Peter performs miracles.  A lame man laying at the gate of the temple is raised up and healed in the name of Jesus.  Crowds gather and Peter again preaches that Jesus is raised from the dead.  He is the Prince of life, the Holy One, and the Just.  He calls the people to repent and be converted.  Now there are 5000 men who believe Jesus is the Christ, the Servant of God.

The religious leaders have Peter arrested, but we know that no one nor anything can stop the spread of salvation in Jesus' name.  Peter and the apostles, then new believers, all become world changers for Jesus.  Within a generation the Gospel spread throughout the known world.  Within three hundred years the Roman Empire submits to the cross of Christ.  In another three hundred years most of Europe believes.  Today, the Good News of Jesus Christ encompasses the world with disciples in almost every tribe, tongue and nation.

Simon, the fisherman, leads the transformation and salvation of souls across the globe.  He is Peter, the rock, and upon his confession of Christ, he has helped change the world.  Today, he lives forever with Jesus in heaven, rejoicing in His Master, Who saved him and trained him to be a world changer.

He gave him the gift of the Holy Spirit so God could dwell in him teach him, guide him, transform and renew him in the image of God, empower him to do miracles and to love as Jesus loved, to preach as Jesus preached, to witness to the world that Jesus is the anointed Savior of God, and to make disciples as Jesus made disciples.

This gift is for you. Jesus says God desires to give you this good gift. Ask and it will be given. Seek and it will be found. Knock and the door will be opened. The Holy Spirit is the secret to this wonderful life Jesus wants to give us, to be world changers for Him.

The Holy Spirit is the power that makes the car race, the jet fly, and the ship sail the ocean. He is God’s power for you to do the impossible for God and to become a world changer for Jesus.

DAVID AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

ISamuel 16:13, “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward…”

David too had his Pentecost with the Holy Spirit. God poured His Spirit into David as only a few in the times of the Old Testament could receive. He was anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit in order to commune with God, to receive revelation knowledge, and to lead God’s people.

This intimate relationship with God and the Holy Spirit was so intertwined into David’s life, one of his greatest fears was that he would lose the Holy Spirit in his life after he had sinned and refused to repent over his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband.

As we read earlier in Psalm 51, in David’s prayer of repentance, he cried out to God, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take the Holy Spirit from me.”

David knew he desperately needed the Holy Spirit to live in intimacy with God and to fulfill His will and destiny for His people. There would be no power, no love, no joy in him without God’s Spirit filling him with God’s presence.

This made David special in the Old Testament as a forerunner of what our Lord desires to do in all believers who live in covenant with the living God. That is why Peter quoted the prophet Joel on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit baptized the disciples and began the New Testament age of making disciples of all nations.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh…” Acts 2:17.

This is the final lesson for us; for God to bring out His image in us and release our potential in His service, to live a kingdom lifestyle in these last days.

God has called YOU to be a world changer for Jesus.  If you will give Him your life in total surrender, He will train you as He did Peter.  Jesus will empower you with the Holy Spirit and you will do greater things than Jesus did.  Believe and receive the victory over the sin in your life, let your faith become greater than your fears, make God's plans and purposes your own. Know the fullness of Who Jesus is, adopt a lifestyle of kingdom living, and be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

If Jesus could do what He did in Peter's and David’s lives, He will do it in your life.  It will be the greatest adventure you could ever know.  Lay prostrate before Jesus and surrender your all to Him and ask Him to use you for His glory to be a world changer in preparing for His return!

WORLD CHANGERS

God's ways are not our ways until He weaves His ways into our lives like the Master Craftsman.  That is the story of Delbert and Sandy Groves.  The two most powerful world changers for Jesus I know.  It is quite a tale God wove.

Today, they have been missionaries for over 30 years in Congo and Zambia.  Their ministry has impacted Central Africa, especially Zambia, like a farmer who has sown and reaped bountiful harvests for a lifetime.  Tens of thousands of people have come to know their love in the power of the Holy Spirit, all for Jesus.

They have raised four sons, planted churches, seen hundreds healed, thousands come to Christ, taught and educated unknown numbers, given hope where there had been no hope, and seen thousands baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Delbert was a rebellious son of a missionary, who ran from home at age sixteen.  By the time he was in his twenties he had wasted his life on the things of the world.  Then he met Sandy and she led him to the altar.

Before they tied the knot, they had to counsel with a Reverend John Brackman, who I have come to know quite well as my father-in-law. But that is another tale.  For John to marry a couple they had to go through his counseling sessions.

During one of those meetings, John talked to Delbert and Sandy about their faith in Jesus.  It was time for Delbert to "turn or burn."  He knew the Gospel, but had run from the hound of heaven.  Now, with John leading, Delbert and Sandy gave their lives to Jesus.  That was the beginning of their step into greatness as world changers for Jesus.

Over time Delbert became a successful owner of a printing business.  He and Sandy started a family.  They sang in the choir.  Went to Sunday School and helped with the young adult ministry.

One Sunday a missionary from Congo, Ken Enright, one great world changer for Jesus, came to preach.  He needed a print shop and printer in the Congo to further the ministry.  Rev. John's wife, Jayne, got the idea that Delbert was the perfect one.  When Jayne gets a gumption in her, there is no stopping her.  Did I tell you she is my wonderful mother-in-law?  She is and she is the best.

Jayne invited Delbert to Sunday supper at the parsonage to join Ken and the family.  When Jayne suggested to Ken that Delbert was a printer and he should go to Congo, Delbert almost threw up his mouthful of food.

Several months later Delbert was invited back to the parsonage to meet with the missions’ leaders of the church.  They had two plane tickets for Congo for Delbert and Sandy.  God's hand had begun to weave His ways more intricately into their lives.

Delbert and Sandy and the kids ended up moving to Congo and ministering in a town, but out in the wilderness.  They served a number of years, setting up the print shop and evangelizing the marvelous Congolese people.  Life was very difficult and extremely hard in ministry.  Then war came and they were driven out of the Congo to Zambia.

Those years of service honed them and prepared them for what God had in store for a blessed harvest in Zambia.  They bought a house and land and created New Life Center outside of Kitwe, Zambia.  If you want to see a picture of God's blessing after 17 years of labor, go to their web site at newlifezambia.com.  There you will see treasures and riches beyond belief.

Even better, go to New Life Center and experience the power and Presence of God on the grounds and in the people.  This is where the atomic spiritual explosion began in Zambia.

Delbert and Sandy loved Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit, but they had not yet come to the deep levels of the Spirit as they walk in now.  I remember Sandy giving a powerful witness to being baptized in the Holy Spirit at one of our nights of testimony after our yearly Holy Spirit Encounter.

She shared of her doubts of this baptism of the Spirit, not to be confused with water baptism.  Yet, the miracles she saw and the power of God that exploded in Zambia convinced her it was real.  She was ready for the deeper ways of God.  She prayed and was baptized in the Spirit.

Only God in her could do what she has done through the years; teaching, preaching, feeding, healing, welcoming, loving, and training people, all to discover the eternal hope of Christ that transforms lives.

Delbert was no stranger to Jesus and the Holy Spirit either, but God had more faith and power for Delbert as He wove Himself into his life through the trials, tests, and rejoicing in Zambia.

We have shared countless hours of ministry and travel together.  We have shared so many miracles and stories.  I keep encouraging Delbert to write the triumphs of God he has seen.  All of the tales I have shared of Zambians in this book are interwoven with Delbert's life.

He has given up time with his family living back in the USA.  That is an enormous sacrifice.  He has lost his health from disease.  His back has plagued him with pain from the terrible jostling from driving the roads and ruts of Zambia.

Jesus' promise to baptize us with the Holy Spirit as the key to being a world changer for Him is the brilliant witness of Sandy and Delbert.  Their world is radically different from when they first started New Life Center.  It is a Jesus culture that permeates the very fabric of the hearts and lives of Zambians.

I am humbled and proud to call them my friends.  I thank God for them, because I would have never been so blessed as to minister in Zambia if they had not obeyed God's call to go and be world changers for Jesus.

We often wonder if we have made any difference in the world in which we live.  I can attest that Delbert and Sandy are world changers for Jesus in the highest order.  They are the apostle Peter in Zambia and throughout Central Africa.  Whoever they touch and wherever they go, the Light of Jesus shines through them and people experience the glory of God.

Believe and let God weave you into a world changer for Jesus.  If God uses you one quarter as much as He has used Sandy and Delbert, you will be great in the eyes of God.  Your impact for Jesus will be unlimited.  You will meet thousands in heaven who will welcome you and thank you for what you meant in their lives.  You changed their world for the love of Jesus.

OUR PROPHETIC NEED

THE ULTIMATE WORLD CHANGER

A dark cloud hangs over the USA and the world. The spirit of antichrist has permeated into every level of civilization. From the White House to London to Moscow to Beijing to ISIS to Jerusalem to Cairo to Mecca. The mark of the antichrist covenant can be seen in the lives of our world leaders, scientists, media, judges, social engineers, educators, priests and pastors.

They are about their father’s business: to implement the ways of Satan in the guise of man’s ways, 666. This is the age of man that rejects the laws of God for our own laws. It is the world system of Babylon enveloping the planet. The deception is so illusive that only those in the Spirit of Christ can see. But even the elect of Christ can be deceived.

Everyone is infected with the antichrist spirit except those who bare the mark of Christ. But even they battle the deceit and deception. The hooks of the Devil tear into our flesh and pull us back into Babylon whenever we think we are free.

Do not fear. Jesus Christ has overcome the world! He is the Ultimate world changer. He is preparing the world for His return. The clash of values against His truth increases. The persecution and rejection in the guise of tolerance threatens those who are of the Spirit of Christ. The days ahead are full of tribulation.

Do not fear. Jesus Christ is triumphant. In one day this massive system of Babylon will fall. The world will weep as the saints rejoice in the victory of the Lamb. He will come in the clouds of glory with His angels to reap the harvest that has been sown since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Those who have rejected Him will come to the final judgment and the lake of fire. Those who have witnessed to His salvation and glory will be raised in power with resurrected bodies to eternal life.

Again, do not fear. There has never been such a time as this when evil is called good and good is called evil. It must multiply across the globe to move the saints to prayer and to prepare for Jesus’ Second Coming.

Jesus is the shaper of human history. There are no competitors to the throne of His glory in which He will rule the earth. No one can even compare with Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will reign in truth and justice and righteousness forever. All that is unholy will be banished from the earth. He will be the Holy One, the Lord of Hosts, worshiped and adored by His angels, by sanctified humanity, and every creature in heaven and earth.

He invites you to join Him in His Father’s plan of restoration and redemption, to prepare the way for Jesus to make all things new. May we sing the new song of the Lamb for all the heavens to hear and to worship the Lion of Judah Who sits at the right Hand of the Father. For He alone is worthy, Jesus Christ, the One Who comes to change the world.